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# COMFORT

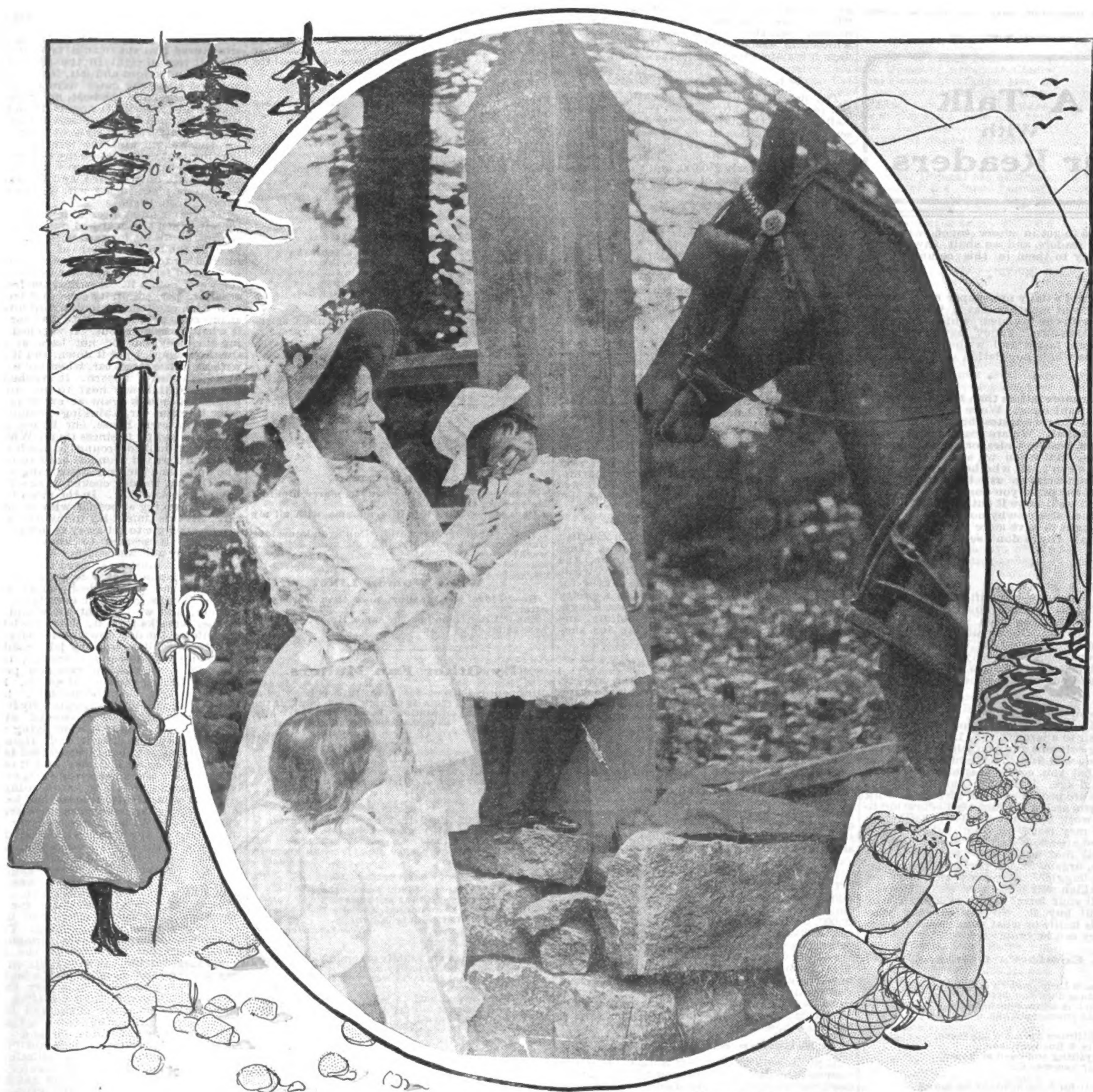
THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES  
*Devoted to Art. Literature. Science and the Home Circle.*

NEW YORK

AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BOSTON

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# COMFORT

THE KEY TO

A Million and a Quarter Homes.

It has the largest sworn circulation of any publication of any kind, anywhere.

The Only Monthly in the World

Printed in five to eight bright colors on a perfecting press, which takes the paper from rolls, prints and binds it complete.

It is regularly read by more people than any other paper or magazine in America.  
Its matter is original, copyrighted and cannot be found elsewhere.

Its watchword is "Onward and Upward." It presents something new, novel and entertaining for each and every member of each and every household.

IT IS THE PEOPLE'S PAPER.

TERMS: 25c. PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Subscriptions are entered on our books as soon as received, and are always dated from the current issue, unless otherwise ordered.  
Postage to all parts of the United States and Canada is prepaid by us.  
CHANGE OF ADDRESS. When ordering change in address, be sure to give former as well as new address. We cannot find your name on our books unless you do. Due notice given upon expiration of subscriptions.  
COMFORT was started and its subscription price fixed on the basis of an 8-page paper it has been voluntarily enlarged to 12, 16 and 24 pages. When more than 12 pages are now given the subscriber can consider it a gift from the publisher.

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as second-class mail matter.

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Boston Office, Hancock Building.

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## A Talk With Our Readers.

We intend to get in closer touch with our five million readers, and we shall have something to say to them in this column every month.

The editor of a daily newspaper or a ten or twenty-five cent monthly has a "soft snap" compared with the problem which faces the editor of COMFORT. Fancy having to cater to the different tastes and wishes of one-fiftieth of the whole population of the United States.

We get far more letters than the average editor, but we want more. We're not editing this paper to suit our own tastes, but to please you. Don't forget that. We are constantly trying new features, besides endeavoring to improve the old ones. But when we start a new department we can't tell whether you like it or not unless you write to us. If there is anything about the paper you don't care for, drop us a line and we'll leave it out. If you like our new continued stories why not say so? If you think we ought to have more pictures why not ask for them? If you don't see what you want ask for it.

COMFORT is growing all the time. We shall soon celebrate our fifteenth birthday. We are doing all we know how to improve the paper and to give you each month a better paper than the last. Our circulation is growing too. We are now aiming for the two million mark. There is no reason why we should not get there, but we can't do it without the help of each one of our present subscribers.

Did it ever occur to you that COMFORT gave you right in your own home all the facilities of a visit to a large city? Look over our advertising columns and you will see how true this is. You will find advertised there almost anything that you could possibly need from youth to old age. If you are out of employment there are people who can give you work to do. If you are young and need education to fit you for work here are schools of instruction where you may learn. If you have recently married and are about to start up housekeeping you will find advertised stoves, tea and dinner sets, organs for the parlor, sewing machines and buggies. If you are sick here are remedies which will make you well. Do you want to sell your farm? Here is a man who says he will buy it. No matter what your condition is in life or what your present needs may be they can be supplied.

### In Comfort's Columns.

In Swanson's Drops health may be found  
And Slocum does you good,  
While Oxley is a gracious boon  
That wins your gratitude.

And Ward throws open his big store,  
And Sears & Roebuck, too,  
With everything you need at home,  
Whatever you may do.

There's hair for bald-heads to be found  
In Tonics and in Food,  
And eyesight for the blind to see,  
And ears for bad and good.

There's clothes and things for men and boys,  
There's dolls for little girls,  
And gowns for women, and as well,  
Fine diamonds, rings and pearls.

There's guns and watches, fountain pens,  
And dinner sets and teas,  
And pictures, music, books and Art,  
And plants and flowers and trees.

If one has Fits, they may be cured,  
Or headaches, or such ills,  
And all the Fat ones be made lean,  
And lean ones get their fills.

Read every advertisement through,  
Give each one its full share;  
You'll find good things in every one,  
And COMFORT everywhere.

When you have read your COMFORT, don't throw it away. Put it aside and keep it for reference. Every number has useful information on all sorts of subjects that you will be needing every day. When anybody asks you any question, field, house, farm, health, where to buy, manners, looks, fashion, cookery, or anything else, get out your COMFORTS and look them over, and you'll be pretty sure to find an answer.

Ask your neighbors every now and then if they have read that interesting story in COMFORT, and if they have not, tell them how much they have missed. They will want to borrow the paper, but tell them you are awfully sorry, but COMFORT is one of the things you cannot possibly let go out of the house.

Money doesn't always bring happiness, but twenty-five cents brings COMFORT for a whole year.

The Editor

## Amusing And Instructive.

### Where Sun Rarely Shines.

The sun never sets on the British Empire—and it very rarely shines on the British Isles. "There has been only three days in this month," says the London Evening News, "on which rain has not fallen." On these three days it may be presumed it was snowing.

### What Half a Cent Cost.

Two printed forms valued at half a cent were lost recently at Baku on the Trans-Caucasian Railway, and the stationmaster had telegrams sent to every station in the Russian Empire to ask if it had been seen anywhere. The company has since had to pay telegraph charges amounting to nearly \$10,000, and the over-zealous official is now out of employment.

### Miles of Streets in New York.

There are 2,507 miles of streets in the City of New York. Macadam leads as paving material, nearly one-third of the total, but asphalted streets are increasing fast, and aggregate 247 miles in length.

### No Courting on Sunday.

The authorities of the Bethel Primitive Methodist Chapel, Burnley, England, passed a resolution in 1834, which reads: "That we do not allow young men and young women of our society to court with each other on Sunday; neither do we allow our single men and women to walk in the street together arm in arm at any time; neither do we allow them to stand at street corners chatting together." By another resolution the Chapel authorities forbade girl choristers wearing bows in their bonnets.

### Five Days in Prison.

Because he kissed his sweetheart when saying goodbye to her in Auerburg railway station, a German actor has been sentenced to five days' imprisonment for "disorderly conduct."

### A Pretty Kettle of Fish.

The official seal or crest of a certain English town named Kingston is three fishes. Last year's Mayor bore the name of Salmon, the Mayor for the current year is Mr. Finny, while it is confidently expected that the Mayor for next year will be Mr. Smelt. This is a pretty kettle of fish, and we may expect to see Kingston, in its desire to keep the pot boiling, angling for a Sprat, a Roach and a Pike for successive years.

### An Armless Marriage.

At Bordeaux, France, an armless athlete, who stands two feet, six inches in his stocking feet, is to wed an armless lady only four inches taller. She is, however, prepossessing, enjoys robust health, is said to be an excellent housekeeper, and can write, sew and knit with her feet.

### We Are Great Theatre-goers.

Who will say that theatre-going is not a tremendous business, when the people of the United States spent \$25,000,000 last year in doing it? Twenty-five millions is quite a tidy sum, but no more than 73,000,000 inhabitants should be able to afford.

### Canada's Great Wheat Crop.

The work of harvesting Canada's record wheat crop has called a good many laborers from England. It is believed that 15,000 or 20,000 men have been induced to cross the sea, and take part in the reaping operations, extending from August to October, and the threshing of grain from October to December. The steamship and Canadian railway lines have arranged special passenger fares for harvest men, a large number of whom are expected to settle in the new country. To every such settler half his railway fare will be handed back as a bonus.

### Nineteen Knots an Hour.

At St. Joseph's, Mich., last Sunday, nineteen couples who came by excursion boat from Chicago, were married by one Justice of the peace within fifty-five minutes. This is the first record we have of courtships attaining more than nineteen knots an hour.

### A Governess Wanted.

A New York governess has sued her 9-year-old ward for \$50,000. The dear child knocked her down, jumped on her back and inflicted such injuries that she is now suffering from "hysteria, anastasia, abosia, paraphilia, dizziness, partial paralysis, difficulty in speaking, intense emotion, irritability and general distress." Land sakes!

### Flower Girl's Romance.

According to the Berlin newspapers, an English engineer one evening gave a flower-girl in a well-known cafe a 20-mark piece in mistake for a 1-mark piece for some roses which he had

bought from her. Directly she noticed what had happened, the girl returned to the Englishman with 19 marks change. The evidence of honesty excited the visitor's interest in the flower girl, and the end of the story is that he fell in love with her, and has brought her to England as his wife.

### What a Bullock Swallowed.

In the stomach of a bullock killed by a Suffolk (England) butcher, there were found ninety-nine pieces of brick, two nails, and a small piece of iron. One of the nails had pierced the stomach and was partly embedded in the fat. The whole of the brick was quite smooth, and some pieces were as large as a hen's egg.

## Fun and Philosophy

By Comfort's Own Fun-Maker.

### September.

September is a pleasant month,  
With gentle Autumn skies,  
And faint and far off we may catch  
The smell of pumpkin pies.

You may look a gift horse in the mouth, but you shouldn't do so when the giver is looking at you.

### A Careful Husband.

Mrs. Jones—(waking and shaking her husband) "John, there's a burglar down stairs. I can hear him moving around."

Mr. Jones—"Well, Maria, you run down and tell him to go away, and I'll watch from the window up here and see which way he takes so I can tell the police."

When a woman gets so mad she can't talk, it is a serious case.

### As the Twig is Bent.

A little strapping, now and then  
In childhood, makes the best of men.

A dollar in the pocket is worth two in the promise.

### A Mercenary Maiden.

There was a young man from Nebraska  
Who found a gold mine in Alaska.  
His girl turned him down  
When he left the old town,  
But later she wished he would ask her.

A scolding woman is quite as unhappy as she makes everybody else.

### The Boy's Idea.

Teacher—"Johnny, do you know where bad little boys go when they die?"  
Johnny—"Yes, ma'am, but I ain't going to die till I'm grown up."

If you keep busy trying to do the best you can, you won't have much time to do poorly.

### Too High-toned.

Mother—"What do you want to marry him for? He's poorer than Job's turkey!"

Daughter—"But I love him, mamma, with all my heart and soul and mind."

Mother—"Fudge, my child. Don't you know love like that can't possibly live on nine dollars a week?"

### What Women Like.

He—"I love you, darling, more than words can utter."

She—"Utter them just the same, Harry. I like to hear as much as I can."

### By Other Fun Makers.

Dyspeptic Patron—See here! this coffee's cold.  
Waiter—Sure! This is a quick lunch joint. If the coffee was hot you wouldn't have time to drink it.  
—Catholic Standard and Times.

Press me closer, closer still,  
With what fervor you can master.  
All my nerves responsive thrill,  
Press me closer, mustard plaster.  
—N. Y. Herald.

Reuben—That thar stuck-up new postmaster is tryin' to make folks believe he has no money.  
Hiram—How's that?  
Reuben—Why, he sez he don't see no harm in Trusts!  
—Puck.

He gazed into her azure orbs,  
As soft blue as the sky;  
He was an oculist, and she  
Had cinders in her eye.  
—New York Herald.

Smith—Women are rapidly assuming all the positions formerly occupied by men.  
Jones—Yes, but there is one vocation in which they fail to score.

Smith—What is that?  
Jones—Soliciting life insurance. They invariably talk a man to death before getting him insured.  
—Chicago News.

"Ah!" sighed the young widow, "no other man can ever fill poor John's place. I loved him from the bottom of my heart."  
"Of course," rejoined the sympathetic friend, "but you know there is always room at the top."  
—Saxby's Magazine.

Clara—When George and I are married, I'm to have my own way in everything.

Dora—Guess you won't.  
Clara—Indeed I will! That's the bargain. Don't you remember I told you he proposed to me in a rowboat, and asked if I'd float through life with him just that way?

Dora—Yes.  
Clara—Well, he was rowing, but I was steering.  
—New York Weekly.

Lawyer—You say that you were walking behind this woman, could not distinguish her figure because of the cape she wore, saw nothing of her face, and yet knew that she was a very pretty woman. How do you account for that?

The Witness—Well, I could see the faces of the men coming towards me.  
—Saxby's Magazine.

## Told by the Drummer.

### A Country Dog.

THE New York drummer was sitting in front of the hotel in the country town, after his day's work of seeing customers was done, and he was talking to a party of men who were also taking it easy at the close of the day. On the side he was playing with a very lively and impetuous fox terrier belonging to the landlord.

"I like dogs," he said, "just because I like them. They are something on the order of a meal of victuals—very nice when you want it and no use on earth when you don't. All of which reminds me of a dog I met not long ago I had a day off in New York, where I live, and I went over for a ramble among the hills and valleys about Fort Lee, which is on the Jersey shore opposite to the upper part of the city. My wife went along to see that I got home safely, and as we wandered about aimlessly we were joined by a pretty little white dog about three months old, I should say. It was a most friendly dog, and after it had kept with us for quite a while we began to feel an interest in it and keep an eye out that it didn't get lost. It was quite at home along the country roads and in the woods, and only barked once when a hunter and another dog showed up in the bushes. When we finished our tramp and came back to the top of the hill overlooking the river, we thought it was time for doggie to go home, but doggie wasn't so inclined and followed us to the ferry, by which time my wife had concluded that it would be cruel to turn the poor little thing adrift, and announced that she would take it home with her. It was all right in the ferry house and made friends right and left, for it was a bright one, and when the gates were opened and the crowd started for the boat, my wife picked it up and hustled with the rest. Then it was that the dog seemed to understand it was no longer in the country, and at sight of the rushing people, the wagons and the ferryboat, it set up a barking that embarrassed my wife so I thought she would throw it overboard. The dog wasn't angry at all, only excited, and it was content to keep its place in my wife's arms and do its barking from there.

"It became quiet after a few minutes and I took it, when the boat had pulled out into the stream, and went forward with it. Its amazement at the broad stretch of water was most interesting to watch. It forgot all about people, horses and ferryboat and was intent only upon the water before it. It sniffed the fresh air like a sailor, perked up its ears and trembled all over with excitement, looking up into my face at intervals as if it would be glad for me to tell it what it was all about. It watched our landing curiously, but did not bark at anything. On shore again, I put it down, and it ran along with us to the street car, when my wife took it up and carried it aboard. It reached its nose out to see if I was next to her, and then it proceeded to bark again at every person who came into the car, thinking no doubt that it was in its own house, our house, and these strangers had no business there. When the car started, it looked around to me for explanation, and I patted it on the head to reassure it. The first time the conductor rang the bell to stop the car, the dog cocked its ears toward the bell and barked at it. In the mean time it had stopped barking at people who came into the car. All this time it lay in my wife's lap making no struggle to get away as might have been expected. It seemed to know who its own people were and was satisfied to stick right by them, but it must be allowed to make its own comments upon what was going on about it. By the time we reached our street, in the Fifties, it was gazing at everything in silent wonder, and we thought we would have no further remarks from it. When we left the car, my wife set the dog down on the street, and instantly the little country jake made a wild charge up and down and around, barking at horses and wagons and cars and people, apparently having the time of its life. So enthusiastic was it that pedestrians, homeward bound at that hour, stopped to jolly it and some made grabs for it as it scooted everywhere on the jump. Finally it went flying up Broadway with my wife after it, and I thought it was a case of lost dog, but it recognized the call she had been using on it all day, and it came back to her pretty much as a scampering child comes back to its mother. She wasn't going to let it get away after the trouble she had had with it, and picking it up once more, we started homeward, the dog in her arms, eagerly watching the hurry of the street with sparkling eyes, and ears sharp set and quivering, and every now and then letting out a half bark of enthusiasm, but never a sign of fear or anger. It was a 'Reub' got into town and it was bound to have all the fun there was in sight.

"I bought a collar and chain for it on the way home, and shortly after I had it haltered, a fire engine came tearing along. You ought to have seen that dog then. Fire-engines stir up city dogs, but the effect on the rustic was something terrific. It stood up on its hind legs pulling, and shouted and whooped it up for the flying turn-out in a way that would have moved the soul of an old-time volunteer rush. It tugged at the chain and begged me to let it go into the thick of the noise and hurry, but I bunged on and only let it enjoy itself under restrictions until the engine went out of sight. Then a whizzing electric car engaged its mind and it wanted to catch the car, but the chain held and the dog pulled so to get away that the collar choked its bark off. Lord knows how I got it home, but I did, and when it was under roof once more, it quieted down and in a short time it was so sleepy, from reaction, I suppose, that it curled up on a sofa and soon was dreaming, no doubt, of the new world it had come into and what a great old time it would have for the rest of its natural life.

"When I left home it was doing as well as could be expected, but it cannot go out unless it is chained, for it wants to chase everything on wheels, especially if the vehicle is going fast. An automobile on a spurt sets it on edge in a minute; and a fire-engine well, I guess it will never see one that it won't want to go to the fire. I used to think there wasn't much difference between a country dog and a town dog, so long as the beast had food and shelter, but I have changed my views on the subject."





1. Lord Salisbury.



2. Mr. Balfour.



3. Gen. Smith.



4. John Schnepf.



5. King Victor Emanuel.



6. C. A. Griscom.



7. W. Burke Cochran.



8. M. Herve Faye.



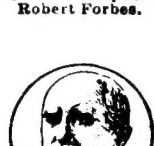
9. John M. Burke.



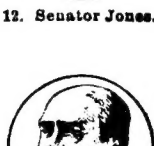
10. Gen. Firmin.



11. Christopher Robert Forbes.



12. Senator Jones.



13. Sen. Hanna.



14. Hon. John R. Proctor.

1, 2. With not so much as a ripple on the surface, the Premiership of Great Britain recently passed from the hands of Lord Salisbury, who has held it since July 2, 1895, to those of his nephew, Arthur J. Balfour, leader of the House of Commons. With the exception of Lord Liverpool, Lord Salisbury had held the office longer than any other Premier for a hundred years. Mr. Balfour is fifty-four years of age, and his uncle is seventy-two.

3. This country, as well as others, was disposed to criticize very severely Gen. Jacob H. Smith of the U. S. Army in the Philippines, for his order to "kill, burn, and destroy" all natives fighting against the United States. His friends made many excuses for the order, which was not official, but he was brought before an examining commission, which recommended a reprimand. The President, however, for political or other reasons, viewed the matter more seriously and retired Gen. Smith.

4. The men who think the air may be navigated are never at rest, though none have ever made any advance of a practical kind in solving the problem. The latest inventor to come forward with an air ship that is "warranted" to sail anywhere and settle the question, is John Schnepf, a New York mechanic, who has constructed an "aerial mobile" which he claims is a new idea and will be a success. In the meantime we should not wait for it if we want to go anywhere this year.

5. Another story has been set afloat that the anarchists of Paterson, N. J., headquarters for the red caps, have sent one of their number over to assassinate King Victor Emanuel of Italy, whose father was killed by Bresci, another of the Paterson gang.

6. One of the great Trust Magnates of this country is Clement A. Griscom of Philadelphia, President of the American Steamship Line, and associated with J. Pierpont Morgan in consolidating the merchant marine of the Atlantic Ocean. It is probable that these rich men will control all the trans-Atlantic business before many months.

7. One of the really great orators of this country, in which oratory is scarcer now than in the days of Webster and Clay, is W. Burke Cochran, of New York, former Congressman. Mr. Cochran has been delivering orations on several occasions lately, after some years of silence, and whenever he speaks thousands turn out to hear him. Mr. Cochran is a Democrat, and he is yet young and active enough to be a power in politics.

8. M. Herve Faye, one of the greatest of astronomers, known as the "Father of Astronomers," and Dean of the French Academy of Sciences, as well as its oldest member, died recently at Paris, at the age of eighty-eight. He was the head of the French Nautical Office and president of the official board of the Paris Observatory.

9. John M. Burke, a merchant of New York City, celebrated his ninetieth birthday recently by giving four millions of dollars to establish a home for persons who had become impoverished by adversity. Mr. Burke had given a great deal to charity in addition, but he had done it all so quietly that it was not known. Even this great gift would have been kept quiet, but the trustees of the fund, named by Mr. Burke, thought best to make it public.

10. Hayti is one of those southern republics known as the "Black Republic," because it is controlled by negroes, who are always ready for a revolution. At last accounts the factions were drawn up in the streets of Port au Prince, prepared for battle. The partisans of Gen. Firmin are attempting to get the government from the provisional president and his party.

11. A famous character in New York City died recently. He was Christopher Robert Forbes, who for many years had the honor of annually raising the Stars and Stripes at Battery Park on Evacuation Day, Fourth of July and Washington's Birthday. Mr. Forbes was a letter carrier at first, but later became a guard on the Elevated Railway. Mr. Forbes was deprived of the honor of flag raiser in 1896, by the Society of the War of 1812, and the act changed his whole life and he brooded over it until his death.

12, 13. Two very important persons in the politics of this country are Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas, Chairman National Democratic Committee, and Senator Hanna, Chairman of the Republican Committee. Each has made a public statement of political conditions, Chairman Jones saying his party has opportunities to make gains in the West, and Chairman Hanna saying that there will be a safe and sure election of a Republican House of Representatives. The fall elections will tell which is the better guesser.

14. Very few people in this country have not heard of the Civil Service Commission and its efforts to take politics out of office holding of the permanent kind. Its object was to do away with the "Spoils system," and it has caused no end of disturbance among politicians, but it

## Portraits and Paragraphs of People Prominent in the Public Prints.

continues and has not lost prestige since its beginning in 1883. The present President of the Commission is Hon. John R. Proctor, a Kentucky Democrat.

15. Famous in good works to help the sick and wounded in time of war, and to take the lead in helping the afflicted in time of pestilence and suffering by great disasters, is Clara Barton, head of the Red Cross Society. Miss Barton has been prominent in this work for many years, and she has the prayers of all the world that she may remain as its good angel for many, many years to come.

16. No poet of any people has written verse that comes closer to the human heart of the everyday man and woman than has James Whitcomb Riley of Indiana, known as the "Hoosier Poet." Mr. Riley is about fifty years of age and in his youth went about the country as a traveling sign painter. He is one of the few poets whose poetry has made a living for him, and he richly deserves it.

17. In 1904 the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will be held in St. Louis, and a greater exhibition than any the world has ever seen is promised to those who visit the "Future Great" two years hence. Millions of money will be expended and the government as usual is putting up its share, or a little more. The President of the Exposition is ex-Governor David R. Francis of Missouri.

18. Very many readers of Comfort have read the entertaining novels by Mrs. Alexander, such as "The Wooling O't," "The Crooked Path," and very many more during the past forty years, and they will be sorry to hear of her death. She was Mrs. Alexander Hector, born in Dublin, 1825, and died suddenly in London.

19, 20. Two American Generals well known to all since the Spanish war and our Philippine operations are Generals John R. Brooke and Arthur MacArthur. Gen. Brooke has recently retired for age, and he has been succeeded by Gen. MacArthur, who will also retire before a great while. Sixty-two is the age limit, but officers may hold over two years.

21, 22. Very much in the public eye of all the world during a portion of the summer was Governor Taft, representing the American government in its negotiations with the Pope concerning the removal of the friars from their places in the Philippines; and Cardinal Rampolla, the head of the Commission of Cardinals. Although the negotiations were not wholly successful owing to the opposition of the cardinals and others, the Pope favored the opposition made by Governor Taft. The matter remains unsettled but this government is firm in its determination to remove the friars.

23, 24. The most sensational and widespread scandal of recent years was that attending the elopement of Captain P. B. Strong, son of the former Mayor Strong, of New York City, and May Yohe, an actress, and wife of Lord Francis Hope of England. Strong resigned his position in the regular army on his way to the Philippines, and with the woman they left San Francisco for Japan. Here they lived lavishly, and in April last they came back to New York, and recently Strong disappeared with \$150,000 worth of Miss Yohe's jewelry. His mother and family paid the loss on condition that Miss Yohe would not prosecute. In the meantime, Lord Hope secured a divorce.

25. All the world felt a personal loss when the news came that the famous campanile, or bell tower in the plaza of St. Mark's, Venice, had fallen in a heap after standing a thousand years. Everybody who saw Venice saw the famous tower, and nearly all the rest of the world had seen it in pictures. Offers to assist in rebuilding poured in, and among them came an offer of the great sum of \$100,000 from Giovanni Morosini, the New York banker, whose daughter some years ago acquired a national reputation by eloping with her father's coachman. Mr. Morosini made the offer as a remembrance of the fact that he was born in Venice.

26. The last of the great "Bonanza Kings," John W. Mackay of New York and California, died in London, recently, of pneumonia after a short illness. Mr. Mackay was the type of what poor boys may do in America. Born in Ireland in 1831, he came to this country with his parents in 1840, and began work as a newsboy. Later he ran a small saloon in Louisville, Ky., and went to California in 1851, where he joined Flood and O'Brien, also saloon keepers. He then went to mining, often working as a laborer with pick and shovel, but at last struck it rich, and then went into many vast enterprises. He left a fortune estimated at eighty millions. His wife was one of the best known of American women in London and Paris,

spending millions on entertainments and jewels. His fortune goes to his wife and son, Clarence, as he had no other children living. It is said his charities amounted to a quarter of a million dollars yearly. His good luck had not spoiled him, and he was a plain man, never forgetting the friends of his earlier and less prosperous days.

27. A Congressman who has come prominently before the public within a short time is the Hon. Charles E. Littlefield, successor to Mr. Dingley, who became famous for the Dingley Tariff. Mr. Littlefield's latest prominence is his selection by President Roosevelt to represent the administration in its fight against the Trusts. Mr. Littlefield is a lawyer, a man of family, does not use liquor or tobacco, and is fifty-four years of age.

28. America is not the only country where poor boys can rise to the highest places, although it may be easier to do so here than elsewhere. Richard J. Seddon, the new Premier of New Zealand, a British colony in the South Pacific, was a poor farmer in England, who went to Australia, working in the mines, thence to New Zealand where he rose to be Premier. He is a strong man of great natural ability, but uneducated and rough in his manners.

29. The successor in the United States Senate to Senator James K. Jones of Arkansas, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, is James P. Clarke, who is a "fighter from Wayback." Mr. Clarke, though but forty-eight, has been Governor of the state and has held other offices. He is a Democrat and made his fight against the political rings of his state.

30. The new Governor General of Australia is Lord Tennyson, son of the Poet Laureate Tennyson, the greatest of modern English poets. Lord Tennyson succeeded Lord Hopetoun, who resigned because the salary \$50,000 a year was not sufficient to maintain the dignity of such a court as he is compelled to have. Lord Tennyson is no richer than was Lord Hopetoun and he will probably resign after trying it awhile.

31. The military forces of our nearest neighbor on the north, Canada, are not very large, as indeed our own are not, but they have a Commander in Chief, and the latest appointment to the position is Major General the Earl of Dundonald, who comes over from England. General Dundonald is fifty years of age, a soldier of great distinction, and his appointment is a high compliment to the people of Canada, who have long urged their right to have distinguished men appointed to posts in the colony.

32. Japan has a J. Pierpont Morgan, who is almost as rich and as powerful as our American millionaire, who has been buying up nearly all the loose portions of the earth. The Japanese millionaire is Baron Shibusawa, who is now paying a visit to the United States to study financial conditions here. His picture shows a strong face, with few of the Japanese characteristics.

33. Bozo Gacina is a Dalmatian boy who ought some day to be a famous American citizen. He was so anxious to come to this country that he stole his way for 12,000 miles, the last three thousand being in an empty boiler of a "donkey" engine on the steamship Umbria. As a stowaway the little chap staid in his hiding place for a week, fed by friendly stokers who had found him. He was caught before leaving the ship at New York, however, and would have been sent back, as he had been once before, but some good American heard of his case and went on his bond, he believing that such a boy would make a good citizen.

34, 35. King Albert, the old King of Saxony, having died at the age of 78, he is succeeded by his brother Prince George, who is seventy. King Albert had no children. King George's son, Frederick Augustus, will succeed him at his death. King Albert was a fine old gentleman, and a Catholic, while the great majority of his subjects are Protestants, but he was very popular and the greatest harmony between King and people always existed.

36. A very pretty actress known to theatre-goers in this country was Miss Irene Perry, but she is no longer Miss Perry, for, much to the surprise of all her acquaintances outside and inside theatre circles, she recently became the wife of Harvey Wilson Bell, son of Bishop Bell of North Carolina. Although Miss Perry was popular as an actress and made a hit in a new play, she will retire from the stage. The wedding took place in Boston.

37. The wife of Hon. William B. Ridgeley, Comptroller of the Currency, died at the Johns-Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, after undergoing an operation for appendicitis. She was supposed to be improving after the operation, but took a sudden turn for the worse and died in a few hours. Mrs. Ridgeley was a daughter of Senator Cullom of Illinois, and was prominent in social circles in Washington and in her own state.



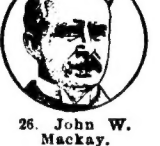
23. Capt. Strong.



24. May Yohe.



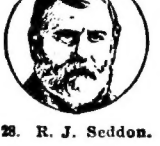
25. Giovanni Morosini.



26. John W. Mackay.



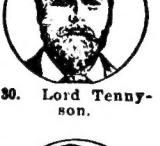
27. Congressman C. E. Littlefield.



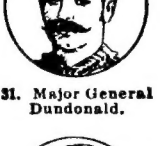
28. R. J. Seddon.



29. J. P. Clarke.



30. Lord Tennyson.



31. Major General Dundonald.



32. Baron Shibusawa.



33. Bozo Gacina.



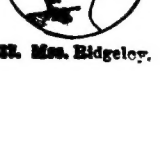
34. King Albert.



35. Prince Frederick.



36. Miss Irene Perry.



37. Mrs. Ridgeley.



15. Clara Barton.



16. James Whitcomb Riley.



17. D. R. Francis.



18. Mrs. Alexander Hector.



19. Gen. Brooke.



20. Gen. Arthur MacArthur.



21. Gov. Taft.



22. Cardinal Rampolla.



24. Hon. John R. Proctor.







# Love, the Sleuth.

Hearts vs. Detectives in the "Great Purinton Mill Mystery."

BY HOLMAN F. DAY.

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## SYNOPSIS OF PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

(Caleb Brett, an aged and prominent citizen of Mansfield village, drew a considerable sum of money from the bank on a certain forenoon, and was seen to enter Purinton's mill on the edge of the village. He did not reappear, and later a searching party found his old beaver hat on a slab pile at the foot of a sluice leading from the upper part of the mill, where he had entered. It was considered probable that the old man had come to his death by falling down the sluice. The strange part of the affair was that the body had been removed by persons unknown—admitting the presumption that he was really dead. Several persons were in the mill at or near the time he was seen to enter: his nephew, George Brett, with whom he had been having trouble about the young man's proposed marriage to a girl below him in social standing; Arthur Wing, the village printer and suitor of the squire's grand-daughter, a young man obnoxious to the squire; Daniel Purinton, owner of the mill, and one who was intending to borrow a large sum from the old man that day. After some weeks both George Brett and Arthur Wing were arrested on suspicion of having been concerned in the old man's taking off. Brett was released on small bonds after certain testimony seemed to throw the burden of the matter upon Wing. At the hearing granted to Wing before the justice, a small boy brought in a message signed by Caleb Brett, apparently, but written by another hand. In the note—admitting that he wrote it—he declared that he was still alive.)

## CHAPTER V.

LEAVING the audience in the court room to buzz their excitement over the massive so sensationally interjected into this strange case, the justice, the county attorney and the detectives retired to an ante-room to examine the scrap of writing.

"It's the squire's signature, ain't it?" the justice asked of the treasurer of the savings bank. "It certainly is," replied that gentleman, who was better qualified than any other in the village to pronounce on such a matter.

"Do you gentlemen have the least idea the squire really is alive?" inquired the justice, pushing up his glasses after a second prolonged scrutiny of the note.

Detective Ordwell held the scrap of paper at the time. He said after a short pause:

"Probably all of you have noted the same things about this paper that I have. Its top is uneven, showing that it has been scissored from the bottom of a larger sheet. The writing is crowded together above the signature showing that the writing has been adjusted to the signature rather than the reverse. The signature must have been on the paper when the person who penned the note commenced to write. What sort of a paper was that signature affixed to, should you say, Mr. Treasurer?"

"It looks to me as though that was the bottom of a blank leaf. I have known that the squire carried several about in his pocket-book. He usually signed them in the bank so that he could use his quill pen on them and left the rest to be filled in later."

"Therefore the chances are that the person who got the pocket-book from the body of the squire found this paper and has employed this subterfuge of the note," said Ordwell.

"That's it," replied the justice. "And it must have been some one interested for Arthur Wing."

"I would like to suggest that this might not necessarily follow," said Detective Ordwell. "The guilty man himself probably wrote that note. Most men who are willing to commit murder shrink from seeing an innocent man suffer in their stead."

"It seems to me," broke in one of the state detectives, "that the chances are that the Wing crowd did this trick. Look at the testimony that has been brought out here today! A paper known to have been in old Brett's pocket-book has been found on the floor of Arthur Wing's office. He has passed into the bank a mended bill that the treasurer had patched up a few days before for the squire. And now, here a note comes in, written on another piece of paper that must have been in the squire's possession the day he was killed. I figure that it all points toward Wing."

"I shall certainly go back into court," said the county attorney, "and demand that Arthur Wing be held for the grand jury. I think the case demands it."

"I am not here as an advocate of Arthur Wing," said Detective Ordwell, "but I desire to draw the attention of the court to the fact that all the evidence against the young man to this point is purely circumstantial. To be sure it links together after a fashion, but it is very inconclusive. The *Mirror* office is a public place and who may say what person dropped the paper there? Bank bills circulate through many hands in a few days. That note there may, of course, have been written on the bottom of one of the blank leaves that the squire had on his person that day. But there are numbers of signed leases in various hands about town."

The weight of numbers, however, was against the detective. Furthermore, it was well understood that being engaged by the Erskine family he might be expected to be interested in their defence of Arthur Wing.

"I'll allow it isn't clear yet, one way or the other," admitted the justice, "but we seem to have hold of one end of the thread, and it's my opinion that we ought to keep pulling on it. It's better for Arthur Wing to have all this threshed out in court than to go along with all these stories and suspicions dogging after him."

He went back into the court room with his little retinue, and after a whispered conference with the county attorney announced his decision, first making an explanation of the motives governing him. He stated to the crowd that the note purporting to come from the squire, was, in the minds of the officers concerned in the case, a rank imposture, but that it perhaps would lead to future developments. He said that he desired to bring no hardship upon anyone, but that after all these weeks of doubt and suspicion it was best to bring matters to a head, and let the law sift the evidence in court and under oath. Therefore he stated that he felt it best to hold Arthur Wing for trial, and he should be obliged to set the bonds at twenty thousand dollars on account of the serious nature of the charge.

Something like a gasp in chorus ran over the audience, and Arthur Wing arose and was about to speak. But the justice not unkindly

advised him to say nothing, telling him that henceforth he must be guarded in his utterances. Court was then adjourned.

Meander Wing, his voice trembling with a father's solicitude and his face drawn with grief, canvassed the town for bondsmen. But the citizens were frightened at recent developments and bluntly or shamefacedly refused to assist.

Sheriff Pettingill obligingly held his prisoner at the village hotel for twenty-four hours, hoping that the father would secure the bonds. But at noon he reluctantly told Meander that he must perform his duty. There was no prospect that bondsmen could be secured.

"I thought we had friends in this town, bub," said the old man as he sat in the bare little room at the hotel and rolled his hat in his hands, "but it don't look like it now. Cheer up, bub. Because you are over there in jail for a while doesn't signify that you belong there. As sure as God is in Heaven I'll find some way to get you out." He pressed Arthur's fingers with a shaking hand and hurried away before his son should see the tears that were running down over his wrinkled cheeks.

A half hour before Arthur Wing started with the sheriff for the county jail Grace Erskine called at the hotel. No one knew what passed between them, but the crowd that stood about the door when Wing stepped into the sheriff's team noticed that the young man's face wore new serenity.

"It's pretty hard work to believe that he done it," commented one of the loungers after the team had rattled away.

"Human physogs are the most deceivin' things in this world," said Jason Dustin, the deputy sheriff. "You jest wait till this thing is all out and then see!"

"But jest notice how the Erskines are standin' behind him," objected the other. "They wouldn't be backin' up a man they thought had murdered their nearest relative, would they?"

"When ye come to wimmen's notions and prop'ty troubles 'tween the Erskines and George Brett, there hain't no tellin' what wimmen will do," was Jason's pessimistic reply.

The two state detectives and their ally the reporter for the *Daily Mail* had suspiciously noted the fact that the elder Wing was not in the court room at the time of the hearing. In their minds they had promptly connected him with that mysterious missive that had been brought to the justice. As soon as court was adjourned they searched for the boy that had brought the note. But Detective Ordwell had been before them and was leading the urchin down Water street in the direction of the woods in which the boy averred he had received the letter.

"What's your name?" asked the detective.

"Chester Higgins."

"Where do you live?"

"Down on the bay shore, there beyond Purinton's mill."

"How did you happen to be in the woods today?"

"Been clamm'n' over 'crost the Neck and was comin' home."

"How far is it to the place where the man gave you that paper?"

"Oh, a mile or tew mile or suthin' like that."

"Now I want you to go and show the place."

But the boy hung back rather surlily and looked stubbornly at the ground. "Oh, I'll pay you for the trip," the detective added.

"Wal, that's bus'n's," said the boy. As they walked along, the officer noted that despite his rags and bare feet, the boy had much intelligence in his weazened little face and that his eyes were coldly blue and shrewd.

"Pa lives down there," exclaimed the boy listlessly as they entered the scrubby pines. He pointed to a weather beaten cottage down across the rocky pasture at the edge of the water.

"What does your father do?" the detective asked.

"Oh, he lobsters and clams and hand-lines and picks up wood and drinks rum. Mother says if he'd stick to his other jobs as stiddy as he does to drinkin' rum we'd git to be well off in no time. But I like Pa. He uses me well. If I didn't like him he'd lick me till I did."

The two traversed a path leading through scrubby hemlocks until the boy paused and after looking around a little while said:

"I reckon it was about here that I got the letter."

"Are you sure it was here?"

"Wal, it was about here somewhere."

"You ought to be able to remember back two hours better than that." The detective's tone was suspicious and the boy appeared to note the fact. He hastened to say, "These places along here look a good deal alike, mister, and I wasn't paying no partic'lar notice. I wasn't reckonin' I'd be yanked up here and asked all kinds of questions."

The detective seated himself and commenced to examine the boy in regard to the personal appearance of the man. But the urchin was vague. He would only say that the man was tallish and wore a false beard that was hitched under his chin by a string that went around his ears.

"What sort of clothes did he wear?"

"Don't know."

"Were they dark?"

"Don't know."

"Were they light?"

"Don't know."

"Look here youngster, you brace up your memory a little or I'll take you along with me," and the detective rolled up the lapel of his coat and exhibited his badge. The boy's face whitened a little under his tan but he bored his grimed great toe in the moss and shut his lips tightly.

"He's a stuffy little whelp," thought the officer. Then he attempted a new tack.

"But," said he, "I can see that you are a pretty smart chap. I believe you'd make a good detective yourself if you had the right training. Now the first thing to do is to take pains to notice everything. I'll tell you what I'll do. If you want to learn to be a detective I'll take you around with me for a while and give you some points. Would you like to be a detective?"

"You bet," said the boy with emphasis. "I've read a grist of stories about them fellers." The officer started back along the wood road in the direction of Purinton's mill. "Come along," he said "and we'll talk it over." When they crossed the dam the officer felt that he had won the boy's confidence. They paused at the fence opposite the big door of the mill and the detective leaned against it carelessly with his eye on the entrance. But he kept on talking with the boy. Daniel Purinton came to the door at last, tugging a sack of meal that he threw into a farmer's waiting wagon. When Purinton straightened up Ordwell murmured to the boy in low tones, "Take a good look at the man there. Suppose he had those false whiskers on his face. Would he look any like the man that you saw in the woods?"

The boy stole a quick glance at the face of the detective. "Of course you understand, mister, that a feller can't be very sure about a matter of that sort but I really do think that if ye should put whiskers on that man there he'd look jest like the man that passed me that letter to carry."

"You are as sure about that as you can be?" the detective demanded.

"Yes, sir," and the youth looked with great candor into the eyes of his interrogator.

"Now, bub, other persons will ask you some such questions as that but I want you to promise me that you will bluff them. Remember that you and I are two detectives working on this case together and we don't want to let other people in. Do you think you can bluff?"

"I hain't tried very much," said the boy with a rather strange expression on his face, "but I reckon I can."

"Here's a dollar for your first fee," said Ordwell "and now look out how you answer questions."

"Yes sir!" and the boy slipped down over the bank and hastened off along the shore towards his home.

"That boy looks to be about forty years old every once in a while," mused the officer as he went on toward the village.

Carter, the shorter of the two state detectives, was posted in the window of Hawkes's store when Ordwell, his rival, parted from the boy. He had been awaiting their return. After Ordwell was safely past the store Carter hurried after the boy. But the youngster was then in an old dory pulling away along the shore toward a house Carter knew through Hawkes to be the domicile of "Rubber-boot" Higgins.

The detective was obliged to pick his way through the rock-strewn pasture. He saw Higgins and his son sitting behind the woodpile, deeply engrossed in conversation. "Rubber-boot Higgins," who was called thus on account of the unvarying nature of his foot gear, was a tall shambling man of the general no-count sort.

"I have called to have a little talk with the boy about that business of the letter," commenced Carter.

"Yas, queer thing that," replied Higgins, scraping his rubber boots together to remove some mud. "Boy and I have just been talkin' it over. He don't know northin' but what he has said."

"I'd like to ask him a few questions. I—"

"Boy says he don't know northin' about the thing," persisted the father.

"What did the man look like?"

"Boy says he was tallish but he didn't notice northin' beyond that," broke in Higgins.

"Say, look here," snapped the detective, "I'm asking this boy about the matter. Wouldn't it be just as well to let him answer the questions himself?"

"Wal, he's my boy," growled Higgins.

"Yes, and I'm a state detective and I'll make trouble for you if you interfere with me in my duty," replied Carter. Higgins winced and went to whittling with much vigor. When the detective finally induced the boy to go back to the village with him the father made no protest audibly, though his looks were sufficiently ferocious. He simply threw this comment after the detective:

"Seems 's if you are makin' a good deal of touse over ole Cale Brett. Why don't ye let him rest?"

Carter took the youth directly to the sidewalk opposite the *Mirror* office and waited until Meander Wing came shambling out.

"Look at that man—look hard," murmured the officer.

"Are you reminded of anything?" the detective asked at last.

"You mean about the letter—the man up in the woods?" the boy inquired.

"Yes, that's it."

"Wal—come to think—ye know a fellow can't be sure—but—"

"If that man had on those false whiskers—now think hard!"

"Wal, I vum, mister, now that you speak of it he seems to be jest about the same kind of man."

"Do you know who he is?"

"Oh, yes, that's old Wing the printer. Ye reckon he was tryin' to get Arthur out of the scrape, don't ye?" The boy threw a keen look at Carter. The detective held the boy by the arm. "Have you been talking old man Wing over with that detective I saw you with a little while ago?"

"His name was never spoken at all, mister. Never talked about him."

"Now, bub, if you'll stick it out and bluff that Ordwell—Can you bluff?"

"A little, I reckon," said the youngster modestly.

"Well, you bluff Ordwell and there'll be a good thing in it for you. Now run home and mind your eye."

That evening after pondering long as to how much confidence he should place in the identification of the Higgins boy, Detective Ordwell decided to have a talk with Meander Wing.

Rather bluntly the detective asked the father why he had not been present at the hearing in the forenoon.

"I did start for the court room" the old man said piteously, "but I didn't have the heart to go in. I knew they would ask the boy where he got that money and if he wouldn't tell me I knew he wouldn't tell them. I couldn't bear to be there and hear them tear at him. I went down in the pasture by the shore and staid till it was over. But now that Grace Erskine has told about the money," he said, regarding the officer wistfully, "I don't see that they have much to hold him on."

"It's the marked money and the paper they found in the office," explained Ordwell.

"Yes, but they might have been through other hands before they got to my son," cried the old man with some display of spirit.

"And there the thing hinges," said the detective quietly. "What sort of a man is Daniel Purinton?" he asked with his characteristic bluntness.

Wing didn't seem to grasp the full meaning of the detective's inquiry.

"Daniel is a square man in bus'n's dealin'," said Wing. "He 'tends to his own bus'n's and asks other people to 'tend to theirs."

"For instance, he will not admit where he got the money to pay for the repairs on the mill," suggested the detective.

"That's more or less like Daniel," admitted Wing. "He's sort of bull-headed and set in his ways."

"Has he been in your office since the squire disappeared?"

"Oh, yes; he has more or less business—advertising and job-work."

"He has paid money to you or to Arthur?"

"Yes, I'm quite sure that he has within the last few weeks. The office books will show it, anyway."

"And of course he had his pocket-book out?"

"Yes."

"I don't suppose you or Arthur ever noticed that he dropped anything on the floor?"

"No, oh, no." Wing attempted to intercept surprised inquiry but the detective kept on.

"Have you got specimens of Daniel Purinton's handwriting at your office?"

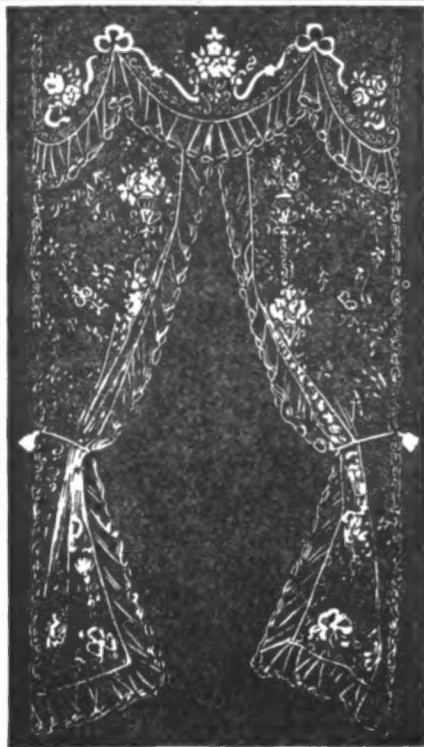
"Yes."

"Well, I'll be around to see you tomorrow morning. In the meantime be very careful about saying anything about what we have been discussing."

"I'll not say anything—but, Mr. Ordwell, you don't mean to hint that you suspect a man with Daniel Purinton's reputation, do you? Oh, it's impossible!"

"I don't care to assert what I suspect," said the officer, quietly, "but I have found that the detective who lets reputation stand in the way of investigation stops a great way short of knowing his business. The records show that good reputations get dreadfully jarred sometimes in criminal matters, Mr. Wing. Daniel Purinton may be a good man but he must take his raking over along with the rest of the good men of Mansfield village."

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# FLOSSIE FIELD'S FORTUNES

## The Story of a Poor Girl.

By Lucy Randall Comfort.

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### CHAPTER VIII.

"CAN'T stand this any longer!" exclaimed Miss Vaillant, flinging her hat on the table.

"Why, what's the matter," asked Mayne, who had just come in with a huge satin box of Easter bon-bons. "The pretty companion again?"

"You are good at guessing," said Hilary. "Yes—it is that precious Miss Eveleth, as grandmother calls her. Such folly!"

"Well?" Captain Mayne moved forward a chair for Miss Vaillant and took one himself.

"Here I am with cards already out for the most select and exclusive Easter masquerade in New York," frowned Hilary.

"Granted," murmured the Captain. "And I am fortunate enough to have received an invitation."

"And grandmother is determined to appear as Marie Antoinette, and drag that girl along as Princess Lambelle!"

"Ye fates!" commented Mayne, after a low whistle.

"Clement," said Hilary, after a moment's pause. "I've thought of a plan. You used to be something of an amateur chemist, didn't you?"

"Rather a dabster at the business," he admitted.

"Couldn't you prepare me a good strong sleeping draught to settle the dear old lady for an hour or two, just until the ball is over? For then, of course, Princess Lambelle wouldn't have the face to appear alone."

"No, I should say not," spoke Mayne, slowly. "But I say—why don't you ask Dr. Zellar?"

"Because I hate him," said Hilary, frankly. "He's always making love to me, and I've refused him twice already!"

Mayne whistled a second time.

"I can't endure those fat, bald-headed men!" flashed Hilary. "I won't ask him anything. If you won't do it for me—"

"But I will," interrupted Mayne. "I dare say I can mix up something. I took a course of medical lectures once, as you know. For tonight?"

"I want her to have it about nine o'clock. I can give it to Morris myself," said Hilary, eagerly.

"My lady's mandate is my pleasure," bowed Mayne, and then as Hilary gathered up her wraps, he departed.

"She treats me somewhat like an apothecary's boy," he pondered. "But she is Miss Vaillant, and some day I mean that she shall be my wife!"

And so, about eight that evening, the page brought up a packet containing a small green phial. "From the druggist's, miss," said he. "For Mrs. Towers, care of Miss Hilary."

Hilary was sitting under her hair-dresser's hands. "It's all right," said she, coloring.

As soon as she could escape she went to her grandmother's room, where the old lady and Flossie were turning over a pile of French engravings of the time of Louis XVI, to verify the costumes that Mrs. Towers had just received, and beckoned Morris into the hall.

"Morris," said she, "my grandmother is exciting herself too much. Dr. Zellar says. Here is a strong sleeping draught that you must give her."

"But, miss," stammered the maid, "Dr. Zellar left a powder this morning for the same purpose—a quieting mixture, miss."

Hilary winced—she had not anticipated this. She paused a second.

"Never mind," she said, tartly. "Dr. Zellar has changed his prescription."

"Half of it now. The rest at ten!"

"But, miss—the ball! My missis says—"

"Dr. Zellar disapproves of the ball for her. But, Morris, this is between you and me alone!"

"Certainly, miss," said Morris. She had taken commands from Miss Vaillant before, and knew her imperious nature.

As Hilary ran down the stairs, the old lady's bell tinkled sharply.

"Morris—my tonic! We are half an hour late now!"

"The Lord be praised for that," said Morris, inwardly, and she hastened to pour half the contents of the phial into an engraved tumbler.

Mrs. Towers eyed it sharply. "The color has altered—what is the matter with it?" said she.

"The doctor has changed the prescription, ma'am," said Morris, glibly, and Mrs. Towers drank it, unquestioningly.

"Inspid tasting enough," said she. "Is the costume ready, Morris? Did you put on those ribbons?"

"Yes, ma'am, an hour ago. Here it is, ma'am."

But in the examination of Marie Antoinette's exquisite robe, Mrs. Towers grew strangely sleepy. "It's singular how drowsy I am," said she. "I think it's Flossie's example that has infected me."

For Flossie had sunk into a brief slumber on the cushioned sofa where the pink silk draperies shielded her tired eyes.

"Well, ma'am," said the artful Morris, rubbing her hands, "I don't think it would be a bad idea for you to get a little beauty sleep too. It's early, ma'am, and you always look better after you've had your nap."

"Perhaps I will," said Mrs. Towers, letting her royal trappings fall in a glittering heap to the floor, and in a minute Morris had slipped on her satin dressing robe and placed her among the lace pillows.

"Be sure to wake me at ten," said the old lady. "Two—hours—to—dress—and—"

"Yes'm—certainly'm" soothed Morris. "Bless me, she's asleep already!"

She dozed over her needlework that evening until it was long past ten, and, waking with a start, she tiptoed to her mistress's room. Mrs. Towers was still asleep, but Flossie sat reading by the shaded lamp.

"Ought not Mrs. Towers to be roused? Isn't it time for her to dress?" she asked, glancing at the clock.

"La, she's dead asleep still," said the maid, "and I was to give her the second dose at ten."

"Yes," said Flossie, calmly. "I heard Miss Vaillant say so, and I gave it to her myself at ten, though it was almost impossible to arouse her."

"Well, miss, she always did sleep sound," said Morris, again rubbing her hands. "And if she can get a quiet night's rest, it is a good thing, I'm sure."

"But she told me to call her early," protested Flossie. "She wishes to enter the salon at midnight. There are some carriages driving up already."

"But the doctor was dead against her going to the ball tonight," interposed Morris, resolutely.

"He said nothing about it when he was here this morning."

"I have Miss Vaillant's orders, ma'am," persisted Morris, who could be unpleasantly pert when she pleased.

And Flossie said nothing more.

Morris was still plaiting pink satin ribbon for Mrs. Towers's negligé and Flossie sat listening to the strains of the Hungarian band and the soft tumult and rustle below, when the clock struck one.

"I guess I'd better undress her for the night," said Morris, putting away her work basket, "if you'd please keep out of sight, miss, for if she sees you, she'll want to talk and I'll never get her ready for bed."

"She'll hear the music," said Flossie.

"No, she won't—she gets harder o' hearin' every day," asserted Morris. "It's a way old folks has."

She nodded authoritatively towards the door and Flossie unwillingly obeyed, for Morris was something of a tyrant in her way.

The band was playing one of Strauss's wild waltzes, and merry voices floated up where Flossie stood opposite her bedroom door. Not that she wished to be one of the dancers—her heart was still sore for her lost mother and she was most retiring in her nature, but Flossie was young and at times very lonely, and a single tear trickled like a stray pearl down her cheek, when suddenly a smothered scream from Mrs. Towers's room rent the air! She rushed back.

"Morris, what is the matter?" she cried.

"I—I can't wake Mrs. Towers up, miss!" stammered the terrified maid with a livid pallor on her cheeks. "I've called and shook her and everything!"

"Let me try," said Flossie, smiling at what she deemed Morris's folly. "I can always rouse her with a word."

But the instant she saw Mrs. Towers's face in the strong electric light that Morris had turned on, she knew that nothing short of the last trump could rouse that sleeper.

For she lay there, dead and cold!

### CHAPTER IX.

Down stairs the Hungarian Band pulsed weirdly and the feet of flying dancers skimmed over the waxed floors, and nobody noticed at first that one by one, people were beckoned out from behind stealthily lifted draperies, so that it was sometime before Mr. Van Alden, the floor manager, made a public announcement that supper would be served at once, after which the second part of the programme would be omitted, owing to the illness of Mrs. Tresillian Towers. People stared and wondered, but they ate their supper with none the less appetite, and departed decorously, leaving polite messages of regret. And not until the next morning did they know what had really happened!

As it chanced, Dr. Zellar was among the guests. He had arrived late and Mrs. Vaillant had taken him up to her mother's room.

"Oh, doctor!" cried she, frantically. "Tell us that it is only a swoon. She can't be dead!"

"She is dead, most assuredly," said the doctor, as he touched her pulse and lifted the heavy eyelids. "What has she taken?"

"Just the same as usual," faltered Hilary, who had grown ghastly pale. "Morris will tell you."

"It was Miss Field gave her the last dose!" squeaked the pusillanimous Morris, "as she'll tell you herself, sir."

Flossie, who sat by the bedside, holding the hand of her dead friend, raised her tear-stained eyes at this appeal.

"Certainly I did," said she quietly. "There's the phial on the dressing table—the dark green one."

Dr. Zellar took out the cork and tasted the few drops that remained. He frowned slightly.

"Some one has been tampering with the case," said he. "This is a powerful opiate."

"It's the medicine you prescribed yourself, doctor," gasped Hilary, paler than ever.

"No it is not," said he, sternly. "It is far too powerful a mixture for so old a person. It bears no doctor's name nor druggist's stamp. Who has dared—"

Then there was a little commotion in the room. Hilary Vaillant had fainted, but Dr. Zellar's glance was on Flossie Field. She did not look like a guilty person, he thought.

"You gave her the medicine, you say?" he questioned, sternly.

"Yes."

"Who authorized you?"

"I heard Miss Vaillant tell the maid that she was to have it at eight o'clock and then at ten. Morris did not come in at ten, so I myself took the responsibility."

"Did you know what it was?"

"No—but Miss Vaillant was my authority. I heard her tell Morris that you had changed the prescription."

Dr. Zellar was silent for a moment. A curious expression flitted across his features. "I see," said he. "This is all very unfortunate, but our friend was old and feeble and this occurrence might have been looked for at any time."

He sat down at a little table and calmly wrote out the certificate: "Death from senile aesthenia."

"Doctor!" gasped Mrs. Vaillant, who had just returned from deluging Hilary with cologne and smelling salts. "What does this signify? The certificate, I mean."

"Signify!" repeated the doctor, brusquely. "Why it signifies death from old age. What else would you call it? Wasn't she nearly eighty?"

"Won't you come in and see Hilary, doctor?" pleaded the mother. "She is so ill!"

Dr. Zellar followed Mrs. Vaillant into Hilary's room. At the same instant Morris called her mistress out, and the physician stood looking down at Hilary.

"Well!" said he sharply. "What does all this mean, young lady?"

It is said that a little wholesome brusqueness is an excellent cure for hysterics. In Hilary Vaillant's case it proved so.

"I—I didn't mean any harm!" gasped the girl, shrinking from the oblique flame of his keen gray eyes. "I wanted to keep grandmother up stairs—away from the ball, you know—she and her companion, Miss Field."

"Oh!" said Zellar, savagely. "So you took it upon yourself to imperil my reputation and risk my patient's life to gratify a whim like that! A very smart thing to do!"

Hilary covered her eyes with her hands. "Oh, don't speak so terribly, doctor!" sobbed she.

"Do you know what the courts of law would call this, Miss Vaillant?"

Hilary uttered a wail of terror. "Oh, doctor—you will never let it come to that!" she shrieked.

"May—who knows? Who gave you this inf—dose?"

"I—can't—tell—you."

"Why not?"

"I am pledged to secrecy."

Dr. Zellar rose and began pacing the room. "The foul fiend can easily find tools for his own," muttered he.

"Strange that so fair an outward personality can belong to a—murderess!"

Hilary shook like a leaf—she was deadly pale. "I never meant it!" she sobbed. "I never meant it!"

"Yet you would have let that pretty young thing, the companion, suffer for your crime, if you could," snarled he. "Don't deny it! I'm not a fool!"

Miss Vaillant rose trembling from the sofa and threw herself on her knees at his feet. "Mercy! Mercy!" she pleaded.

"Ah, you are at my feet, now," he sneered! "Well, young lady, I will be merciful—to you and to the Vaillants,—on one condition only—that you become my wife within three months. I know you are selfish and silly,—that I shall have to watch you as a cat watches a mouse. But I don't believe you'll dare to experiment on me."

"Oh, I can't! I can't!" sobbed the girl.

"Well, why not? I can give you a good home and all the money you want. It's not every one who would extend such terms to—no, I won't repeat the word. But I love you in spite of everything. I always did. And I'm prepared to risk it. What do you say? Are you willing to buy my silence—now and forever—at this price?"

And Miss Vaillant murmured: "Yes!" With an effort, it is true, but still she spoke the word, though her face turned gray as ashes, and her heart almost ceased to beat.

The elderly suitor had won at last!

### CHAPTER X.

"But where is Flossie Field?" said Mrs. Joycote.

The funeral carriages were at the door to convey the family and their friends to Woodlawn Cemetery, and the minister's wife, with her foot on the step asked the question of Mrs. Vaillant, a black draped, drooping figure.

Was it not bad enough to lose her mother so suddenly, that she should also within the last hour have learned that the lovely daughter, to whom she looked to raise the family fortunes still higher by making an aristocratic marriage, had plighted herself to a fussy, bald-headed little doctor, whose only recommendations were his professional skill and a little money he had contrived to scrape together thereby.

"He must have cast some sort of a spell over Hilary," said her mother. "I cannot account for it, otherwise."

"Flossie?" Mrs. Vaillant repeated, vaguely. "We never thought of her, I don't see why she should be here."

"Because she loved Mrs. Towers, and Mrs. Towers loved her," said Mrs. Joycote.

Mrs. Vaillant frowned. "She was the cause of my mother's death," said she.

"Not in the least," spoke Mrs. Joycote, decidedly. "It was all the fault of that stupid maid for misunderstanding Miss Vaillant's directions. Of course you have discharged her."

"No, we haven't," stammered Mrs. Vaillant.

"We couldn't spare Morris—she has been with us for years. She is to be Hilary's maid now. Such a devoted servant!"

"All this is very extraordinary," said Mrs. Joycote, curtly.

"The woman talks as if she didn't believe me," thought poor Mrs. Vaillant. But in her own heart she herself found it very difficult to understand Hilary's determination to retain Morris in her service.

From an upper window, Flossie Field was sadly watching the carriages drive away. To her the world seemed looming up more cruel and cold than ever. What should she do next? Whither should she go?

With swimming eyes she turned away, just as Morris bounced into the room with a card.

"For Miss Field," said she. "Though I'm sure I don't know why he should call. And if I might make so bold, it ain't a good thing for a young person as has her living to make in service to go receiving calls from them as is so far above her."

But Flossie's eyes suddenly brightened as she read the name:—"Mr. Geoffrey Marchlands."

"Ain't you goin' to change your frock nor nothin'?" said Morris, staring.

Without any reply, Flossie went into the dark and silent drawing room, feeling as though she trod on air.

"I am so glad to see you, Mr. Marchlands," she uttered, impetuously.

"Are you? Really?" How bright his dark eyes shone as he took her little cold hand in his own warm grasp.

"I need advice so much," she faltered. "And I have no one to consult."

"Advice? About what?"

"About my future. Everyone is looking askance at me, though I do not know what I have done to deserve it, and there is nothing more for me to do here. If you could recommend me to another place—I can't go back to Mrs. Joycote again—she has been too kind already, and I must decide on something. No—I cannot accept pecuniary aid" as he was about to speak "for I know that you too are poor—"

"Poor is a comparative term," said Marchlands, slowly. "Yes, in some ways I am poor—for instance, I have no near relatives and but few friends. So you are willing to trust to my advice, Miss Field?"

Flossie lifted her frank eyes to his face with deepening color. "Yes, in everything," she spoke.

"And I pledge you my word," said he, "to prove worthy of your faith. But—Flossie—"

Again she raised her sweet, questioning eyes.

"Could you not trust me a little further—could you not trust me with yourself—with all your life? With your heart's love, Flossie? Because in these few last weeks I have learned that life without you would be no life at all!"

"Do you mean—"

"I mean that I want you to be my dearly beloved wife, Flossie. Can you trust me as far as that?"

He took her tenderly and reverently in his arms—she came to them like a lost child that sees its home at last!

"Oh!" she faltered. "I am so happy,—so happy!"

"Then you really love me, Flossie?"

"I have loved you ever since—ever since that first day when I knocked over your picture. Do you remember, Mr. Marchlands?"

"Geoffrey, if you please, my darling. I bought it for my collection,—it wasn't so bad. Now I shall treasure it for ever!"

"You, Geoffrey! Bought it? But I thought you were a poor young artist!"

"An artist, dearest, I own, but not so very poor. I have enough for us both, and to spare, in my English home. When may I take you there, Flossie, my sweetheart, my cherished one!"

"It's very strange!" said Mrs. Joycote, from whose house Flossie was married. "I thought of course the child knew about Castle Marchlands and its great iron mines, and the famous picture gallery and all,—but it seems she didn't. And here is Hilary Vaillant, the beauty of the season, going to marry that pompous little doctor, when I know she worshipped the very ground that Marchlands trod on. And Captain Mayne has suddenly gone to Australia without a farewell word to anybody! There is something here I don't understand at all. But one thing I do know—that Flossie is the happiest girl in the world, and she deserves it all, God bless her!"

(THE END.)

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# All About Flowers.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

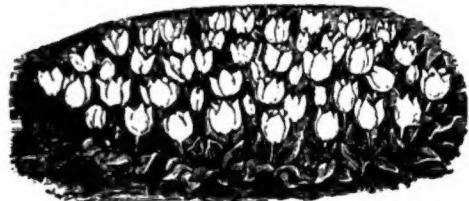
(EDITOR'S NOTE: It is the intention of the editor to have this department practical and useful in all ways. It will deal with the matter of gardening, both out and indoors, in a way calculated to be helpful to the woman who can have but a small garden, or a few pot plants. In order to make it of the greatest possible benefit to those women who love flowers quite as well as those who have a great deal of time to devote to their culture, Mr. Rexford, who is a recognized authority on this subject, will undertake to answer all questions they may ask, to the best of his ability. If there is anything you want to find out about flowers, tell him what it is, and perhaps he can furnish you with the desired information. Anyway he will do his best to do so, and as your questions will be answered through these columns they will be of interest to all "Comfort" readers. Address, Eben E. Rexford, "Comfort" Questions, Shiocton, Wis.).

## Bulb Planting.

**T**HIS is the best month in which to plant bulbs in the garden. As a general thing work of this kind is put off until considerably later in the season because the amateur is under the impression that bulbs planted anytime before the coming of cold weather will do as well. This is not the case, however. In order to achieve the best results, bulbs must be got into the ground as early as possible. The reason for early planting is this: bulbs form roots during the fall from which the early growth of the following season is supported. Such a growth would take place before they can properly perform the work of the season. If you plant them early, strong, healthy root-growth can, and will, be completed before the coming of cold weather, and the plants will be ready when spring comes to devote all their energies to the development of a fine crop of flowers. But if we do not plant our bulbs until late in the season they will only have fairly begun to make roots when winter comes and puts an end to their work. In spring it will be necessary for them to take it up where they left it off, and this will go on at a time when they are trying to produce flowers, thus taxing them to a greater extent than they are able to stand satisfactorily. Late-set bulbs invariably give inferior flowers if any, and they are so weakened by the over-taxing of their vitality that they seldom recover from the check. Therefore plant early and give your bulbs a chance to fully complete the work of the season before cold weather comes.

## Bulb-Beds.

Choose a location that is naturally well-drained if possible. If it is not so, excavate the soil to the depth of a foot and a half and fill in with four or five inches of something that will

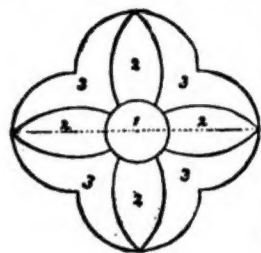


not decay—old crockery, brick, coal-slag, small stones, anything that will prevent the soil from settling down again as it was before you began work at it. This stratum of porous material will allow surplus water from the soil above to filter off through it, thus doing away with the danger of injury to the bulbs planted in it from undue retention of moisture in spring.

When the soil thrown out of the bed is returned to it, work it over thoroughly to make it fine and mellow. If rather heavy, because of clay, it is an excellent plan to add enough sharp, coarse sand to make it friable. Also add to it, while working it over, a liberal amount of old, well-rotted barnyard fertilizer, if you can get it. Nothing suits bulbs better than cow manure which has lain until it is black and crumbling, and the country gardener has the advantage of the city flower-lover because he can almost always get this ideal fertilizer with but little trouble. If it cannot be obtained I would advise bonedust as a substitute. Use in the proportion of a pound to each square yard of soil if it is of ordinary richness. If poor, double the amount.

## Planting.

Put Tulips and Hyacinths about four inches under the surface at the north. The smaller bulbs should be planted about three inches deep. Set the larger bulbs about six inches apart. Small varieties are more effective when grouped and planted closely. What we should aim at is a mass of color, and this can only be secured by close planting.



## Protection.

Just before cold weather sets in, cover the bulb beds well with coarse manure or something similar. This is not to keep the cold out as so many suppose, rather to keep it in. Frost, if it stays in a comparatively tender plant will not injure it, but if the sun warms the soil enough to extract the frost during the day, and freezing takes place at night, injury is sure to result because of the alternation of cold and heat in which rupture of the plant cells is likely to take place. It is the frequent alternation of conditions which does the mischief, not the cold, as most persons believe. Unless bulb-beds are given protection, the soil in which they are exposed under the action of frost and often the bulbs are heaved from their places, and their roots torn off. Be sure to give a covering of some sort.

## Desirability of Bulbs.

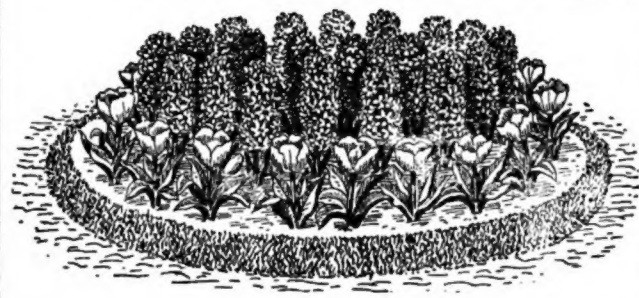
Every garden should have its collection of bulbs because from them we get not only brilliant and beautiful flowers in great profusion, but we get them at a time when the garden would be a cheerless place without them. They tide over the long period between the going of the snow and the coming of the ordinary spring flowers with a prolific display of bloom which is all the more appreciated because it comes at a time when there is nothing to rival it. Now-a-days bulbs cost but little, and every lover of fine flowers can afford them. Indeed, those who love beautiful flowers can not afford to be without them.

## Chrysanthemums.

If these plants have been growing in the ground during the summer, they should be potted the first part of the month. It is a good plan to cut around each plant about ten days before lifting them with a sharp, thin-bladed spade. Make the cut about the size of the pot the plant is to go into. This severs the long roots, and forces them to send out new ones inside the bale of earth, and puts the plant in the best possible condition for lifting because the old roots will not have to be interfered with at potting-time, and the new roots will act as feeders.

As a general thing, but little potting-soil will be needed because the earth which is lifted with the plants will fill the pots, but if any is used to fill in about the roots, let it be rich with bone dust. Endeavor to

lift the plant without crumbling the soil away and exposing roots. To guard against this, water the plants well before lifting. When you have them in their pots, set them in a cool, airy, shaded place, and shower them well. Do



this daily. Keep them there until they seem to have become established in their new quarters. Then put them in a sunny place, but avoid fire-heat if you take them to the house. This plant likes a cool temperature; warmth at this season, will seriously interfere with the healthy development of the flowers.

It is well to make sure that there are no insects on the plants before taking them into the house. The Ivory soap infusion which I have heretofore advised is the best of anything I know to destroy the aphids; use it freely and promptly, and aim to get the insects out of the way before buds have developed much. It is not advisable to use any insecticide after the flowers begin to show color.

We are likely to have frost early in September. Cover Dahlias, Cosmos, and other tender plants on cold nights with sheets, papers, or something else of equal lightness, in order not to break the plants. A slight protection will be sufficient. After the early frosts we generally have a long spell of pleasant weather, during which the plants we protect will give the best flowers of the season.

## Answers to Correspondents.

R. S. W.—Orange trees grown from seed will bear fruit in time, but it is customary to expedite mat-

ters by budding or grafting them. This should be done just before growth begins. If you can procure a scion or bud from a fruiting plant, very likely you can find some old orchardist in your community who can set it for you. An amateur would not be likely to do satisfactory work of this kind without some experience.

A. N.—Ivory, the much praised new Rose, has not been tried very extensively as a bedder, as yet, but being a slip from Golden Gate, it probably partakes to some extent of the characteristics of that variety, and would likely give satisfactory results in the garden.

N.—Dracenas are seldom grown from seed. Florists propagate them from cuttings.

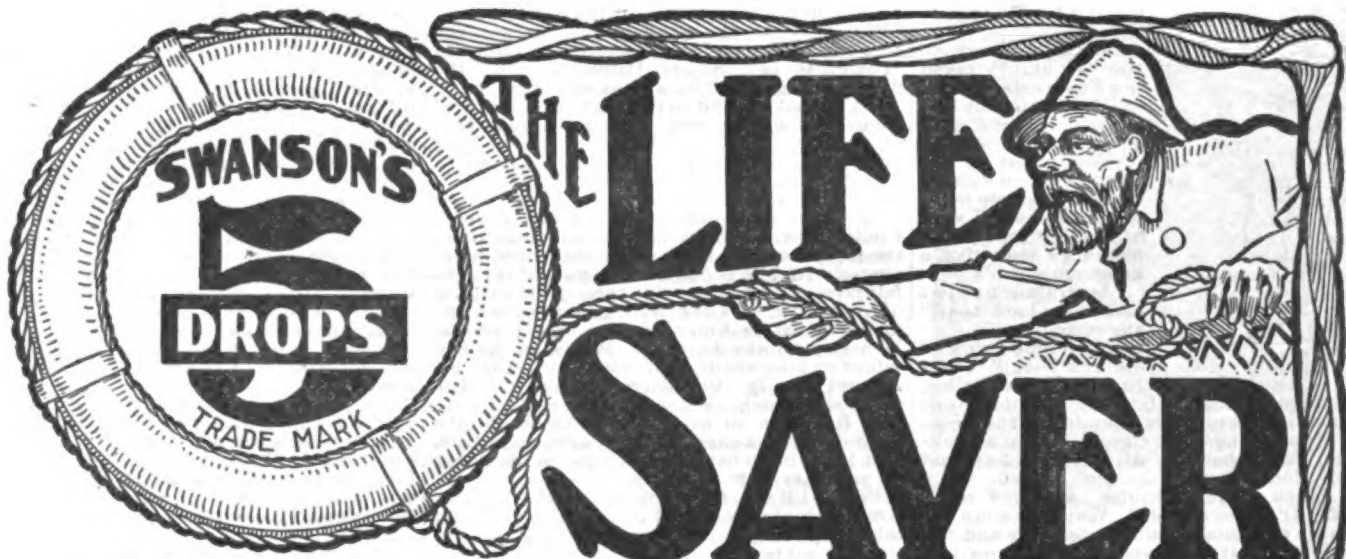
Peony Lover.—It often happens that we have to wait several years for Peony plants to become well established after transplanting. Any interference with their roots is greatly resented by this plant, but not all varieties are alike in this respect. I have moved plants in spring and had flowers from them that season. But in moving them I took care not to crumble the soil away from the roots.

Marguerite.—Yes, the Marguerite strain of Carnations is quite as desirable as the florists represent it to be. It gives us fine, large, richly-colored fragrant flowers from August to cold weather, if we get plants started early in spring. And these if potted carefully in late October or early November, will continue to bloom during the winter. They are really much more satisfactory as winter-bloomers than the green house varieties.

Miss B. S. K.—The Browallia is grown from seed. You can start it for yourself or you can procure young plants from most of the florists.

W. M.—You will find the Buttercup Oxalis one of all-winter flowering plants for hanging baskets. It is a profuse bloomer. Its flowers are rich yellow, larger than those of the pink variety, and quite fragrant. Put half a dozen tubers in a pot, and they will soon furnish foliage enough to almost completely hide it, and above this beautiful blossoms will be borne in wonderful profusion during the entire season.

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## Jeth's Crowd



**Veracious Records of the Doin's in the Cobb's Corner Postoffice, "Writ out" by the Boy Behind the Counter.**

[EDITOR'S NOTE. The quaint philosophers, the dry wags, the shrewd dickers, and the eminent yarn-spinners of the countryside make a forum of the country postoffice when there is room at the rear around the big stove. The stories and incidents on which some of the most successful human interest novels of the day are constructed come from the quaint loungers around the stores in Yankee communities. These official records of "Jeth's Crowd" are to be taken down month by month for the readers of "Comfort," and we hope that as you become acquainted with the members of the "Congress" your interest in their discourse and stories will deepen. In the October number of "Comfort" the "Cobb's Corner Congress" will continue its sessions.]



“**ANYTHING** doin’ in politics down in the Stun’ Bridge deestrick?” asked the Postmaster.

“Not as ye might say ‘specially,’ said Ezra Pitts. ‘We’re all gittin’ our hind legs stretched ready for the Australine ballot in the fall election.’”

“Which way are ye goin’ to jump?” asked the Postmaster.

“Direction of the best fodder,” replied Ezra laconically.

“You fellers in the Stun’ Bridge deestrick have jumped the fence so much,” said Ted Strout, “that your hind legs look like a kangaroo’s.”

“Australine ballot makes us look that,” answered Ezra.

“Makes me think of old Jeff Long,” broke in Cap’n Jote Bailey.

“Jeff was stand’ out in front of his house one day smokin’ his pipe and lookin’ at the scenery. ‘Long come some city people on a buckboard. Feller that was drivin’ hauled up and the city folks set there lookin’ at Jeff. Staid there much as ten minutes and Jeff never moved. D’y ever see Jeff? Wal’ he’s worn the same pair of pants for more’n ten year and the way they bag at the knees beats all creation. Fin’ly one of the men on the buckboard hops off and walks over to where Jeff’s was standin’.”

“Why don’t ye jump?” says he.

“‘Jump’ says Jeff, ‘jump where to?’

“‘Donno where to,’ says the stranger, ‘but ye’ve been standin’ here for ten minutes with your legs all bent ready to jump and we’ve been waitin’ for ye.’ That’s the way with the voters in the Stun’ Bridge deestrick,” concluded Cap’n Jote. “Ye might think they was ready to jump in politics at any and all times, but they hain’t. It’s only the way their political pant legs bag at the knee. Ye couldn’t drive ‘em out of the party. There’s old Hen Perry. He’s still votin’ for Andrew Jackson.”

“D’y ever hear about Hen in the last caucus they had down in the Stun’ Bridge deestrick?” The postmaster asked.

“Naw,” was the chorus.

“Wal, Hen was out in front of the house while the caucus was goin’ on, tryin’ to work off that old high pressur’ mare of his onto Paul Jones. Paul had more or less of a breather, too, but he had the old plug dosed up and had bent a hunk o’ strap iron over his nose so that his breathin’ didn’t sound quite so much as us’al like a man rippin’ shingles off a roof with a barn shovel. Hen was keepin’ his old mare tip-toein’ round all the time so that she wouldn’t show that her right hip knocked down. Wal, he was right in the heat of the trade when there was more or less of a hullabaloo in the town house. Hen hadn’t been in at all and wasn’t intendin’ to go in. He was more interested in horse tradin’ than in politics. But when the rumpus in the town house got to goin’ he hollered to one of the men at the door and asked him what the trouble was. The man hollered back that it was alleged that Silas Orff had voted mor’n once. Hen has been fightin’ Silas in law about fence for about ten year and he hates him wuss’n pisen.

“Wal, Hen he drops the reins, left his old mare and made a break for the inside of the town house. He tipped over tew men who were in the entry way and plowed his way up the aisle steppin’ on corns and elbowin’. Fin’ly he flt’ his way to the front through the howlin’ crowd and hopped up on a settie. He’s got a voice like the Bull of Bashan and he hollered the gang to a standstill. When they got quiet he says, says he, ‘Feller citizens, Listen to me. Here is Silas Griff denyin’ that he has voted more than once. Why, feller citizens, Silas Griff has voted once that I know of twice to my certain knowledge and three times by Jeehookibus Hossfodder.’ Wal’s r, that crowd they gaffed onto Silas and spite all he could do or say they throwed him out off the town house and he hadn’t voted but once, neither—and there was old Hen, he hadn’t been in there at all. That’s the way of politics, blame ‘em. Hain’t no hon-

esty anywhere. I wouldn’t risk myself to run for hog-beef in these ere days.”

“There has been times when Hen Perry has daubed in once too often,” said the Postmaster. “When ‘Squire Baldwin was speakin’ in the Stun’ deestrick a few days ago Hen kept interruptin’ with questions. Fin’ly the Squire got kind of fussed up for he said that Hen was tryin’ to rattle him. ‘My friend, there,’ says the squire, ‘reminds me of the story of old Bill Beals who lived down in my town and was near-sighted. He worked all one forenoon tryin’ to fill a nail keg with water and about dinner time disklivered that there warn’t no bottom in the thing. I hain’t in the bus’ness of fillin’ bottomless nail kegs.’ That got the laugh onto Hen and he got up and hollered ‘You go to hell, Squire Baldwin.’ Wal, the Squire straightened up and he says, says he: ‘I’ve spoke round in this section in political times for a good many years, but I must say, my friends, that this is the first time I have ever had one of the opposite party invite me so kindly to visit his headquarters!’ Wal, Hen went home after that shot.”

“Northin’ like bluff to win out for ye,” said Uncle Wack. “Chet Woodrow was braggin’ in the store the other night about that sorrel four-year-old that he is figgerin’ on puttin’ into the fall races. Chet allus talks through the corner of his mouth, ye know, and gives one the impression that he knows it all. And I reckon he really thinks he does. Wal, after he had talked so long about that sorrel colt that his spit got woolly, Hite Barrows broke in. Hite never says much, ye know. It surprised us to hear Hite grab in as he did. ‘Ye’re talkin’ a good deal about that colt of your’n,’ says Hite, ‘but I reckon he hain’t got wings on his hocks as ye’re tryin’ to make us believe. I’ll bet four dollars worth of oats that I’ll take that rangy Durham steer of mine and go out and beat ye for the mile.’ Chet he blustered up and says, ‘I’m talkin’ sense about my colt—I hain’t jok-

ing.’ ‘Neither am I,’ says Hite. ‘I’m talkin’ sense about my steer and I’ve got jest as much right to brag about my steer as ye’ve got to whoop round about that sorrel that ye ought to name Sutler ‘cause he’s allus behind.’ ‘Wal, ye hain’t got any hosses in your barn that kin beat that colt,’ says Chet. ‘I hain’t talkin’ about hosses,’ says Hite. ‘Any one of my hosses kin beat him—that’s too easy. What I’m sayin’ is that I kin beat him out with even that steer. Come now, put up or shet up and stay shet.’ Chet tried to talk some more but we all at him and told him that if he didn’t bet he couldn’t talk. Hite put his money on the store counter.

“Of course we all s’posed that Chet would flam his money down mighty quick, for who ever heard tell of a steer beatin’ a hoss? But I swow if Chet didn’t take his kairose can and paound of tea and start fer home. One of the fellers followed him out onto the store platform and says to him, ‘Chet, for goodness sake’s what are ye thinkin’ of to be bluffed down in that way? That colt of your’n is really the best goin’ hoss in town and can clean out anything round here, much less a blamed old stub-toed steer. Put up your money.’ ‘But Chet he unhitched and got into his wagon. ‘Ye don’t ketch me,’ says he. ‘I know I’ve got a good hoss,’ says he, ‘but after one of them blamed Durham steers gits started there hain’t no tellin’ where in timenation he will fetch up.’ And off he drove, bluffed to a standstill.”

“Polytics hain’t botherin’ us a mite down our way,” broke in Ran Young, the stage-driver. “We’re havin’ a revival at the Twin Trees school house, and they wouldn’t stop the meetin’’s even to have a rally last week. Revivalist is a stranger but he has been doin’ a good job at it. Fust week he was there, though, he come nigh bustin’ up the meetin’. Old lady got up to speak and she did make a powerful exhortation. It was her fust trip to the meetin’ and when she got to goin’ in reel good shape the evangelist was much taken with her earnestness. So he commenced to shout ‘Amen,’ at frequent intervals. Pretty soon he wanted to know her name so that he could encourage her as she went along. So he leaned down and asked a leetle boy who set on the edge of the platform, what the sister’s name was. The sister was speakin’ considerably loud by that time and the evangelist and the leetle boy misunderstood one another.

“Boy thought evangelist wanted to know where the sister lived and he said ‘Down to the

Moose-yard.’ Evangelist thought the boy said sister’s name was ‘Moose’. So at every other breath she took he would shout as loud as he could ‘Amen, Sister Moose’. Old lady kept slowin’ up and glarin’ at him. Thought he was makin’ fun of her. At last she shunted off her discourse and paid her attention strictly to him, sayin’ that he was a wolf in sheep’s clothin’, sent among them to tear and to slaughter. That thing come nigh bustin’ up the meetin’ but after a time they got the misunderstanding straightened around and they have been runnin’ sence that time in good shape. Why, they’ve even converted Jim Bangs, the hoss jockey, the wust blamed shote that ever travelled in these parts. You all know him, of course—Jim Bangs—Hare-lipped Jim. When it was announced that on the next evenin’ Jim Bangs would weep his way to the prayin’ seat and confess his sins, the school house was filled chuck full. He had cheated about ev’ry one in town, Jim had, and the folks wanted to hear him confess to it. Pretty soon the evangelist announced that Mister Jim Bangs would arise and give testimony to the saving grace of the Lord. Jim got up. Ginger, how the folks craned their necks and listened. Jim never spoke in meetin’ before. He’s got a bad hare-lip ye know and he hain’t used to standin’ up before folks, except when he’s tradin’ hosses. So he commenced kind o’ low-spoken: ‘Hithian b’o’thers an’ hithers, h’ I h’ant to h’ead a Hithian h’ife an’ h’I h’ank Hod—’

“Amahn,” shouted an old father in Israel on one of the side seats. ‘We’re glad to hear the brother’s testimony but will he speak a mite louder so all the old folks can hear?’

“Jim got kind o’ red but he whirled around that way and commenced again. ‘Hithian b’o’thers an’ hithers, h’I m’h’ad he’o be here ho-hight an’ h’I h’ank Hod—’

“Amen,” piped up one of the sisters, ‘but please speak a leetle louder, brother, a leetle louder for the old folks to hear.’

“You all know how quick tempered Jim is. He won’t stand it to have any one call him in-

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## Montgomery Ward & Company, Chicago

to line and he's sensitive about his hare-lip. He has allus been used to blurtin' right out at folks. So now he forgot all about where he was and he yelled at the top of his voice. ‘H’I’ve h’ee a h’icked man h’ut now h’I h’ant h’o be a Hithian. H’amn your h’eeef h’old h’ouls, h’ian y’ou h’understan’ h’at?’

“Is Jim a member of the church yet?” asked the Postmaster.

“Wal,” said Ran, “I understand he has been given a week’s vacation on probation and a file so that he can rasp some of the rough edges off.”

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# Ned Todd The Oklahoma Detective;

Or, The Strange Cabin in the Wilderness.

By Henry Dale.

Author of "Boomers and Cattle Kings," "The Cheyenne Outbreak," "Shadowing a Shadow," "Chepita," "Mormonism Unveiled," Etc.

Copyright, 1902, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.

The opening chapters of this intensely interesting story appeared in February COMFORT. Back numbers may be obtained by enclosing three cents to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine, for each number desired.

During the past year portions of Indian Territory were opened to settlement by the Government allotment of lots by chance, and the scenes that were enacted in the years gone by, when Oklahoma was the objective point of settlers from east and west, north and south, were again presented in a much more exciting manner. A Kansas telephone girl luckily secured a lot valued at \$17,000, and others were nearly as fortunate.

Because of the exciting events that have transpired in Oklahoma and Indian Territory, events that have attracted the attention of the whole country, the story of "Ned Todd" is presented to our readers in the hope that instruction and entertainment may be derived from its perusal.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE IDIOT'S STORY.

THOUGH the pursuers were almost on them, Archie had no idea of leaving Daisy behind. He reined in his horse, threw himself from the saddle, and unsling his rifle.

Half a dozen painted demons were almost upon him, but he raised his repeating Winchester and sent half a dozen shots among them, which checked their headlong advance. One saddle was emptied, two horses were down, and the others had sought safety in flight.

He ran to Daisy, just as her horse began to kick and struggle in death. Seizing the insensible girl about the waist, he drew her away from the horse and laid her upon the leaves beneath a wide-spreading beech.

Crouching down by the foot of the tree, he determined to defend her with his life.

Fortunately he had brought some ammunition with him, and he had the presence of mind to slip a few cartridges into his gun during the lull in the attack.

Captain Snell, who had been one of the party that was chasing Ned Todd, on learning that there was a man and a woman about to make their way to the camp, had abandoned the chase after the borderer and turned his attention toward the youth and Daisy.

"Catch them, but do the girl no harm. A thousand dollars to the man who takes the girl unharmed!"

This stimulus was sure to bring about the desired result, he thought, and doubtless it would have but for the fact that the youth had shown a decided intention to take care of himself.

Placing Daisy out of the reach of their bullets, he crouched behind the old beech tree and sent shot after shot with such precision into their ranks that the Indians for the second time fell back.

"Death and fury!" roared the road agent chief. "Are you all a set of cowards? Look, see! the boomers are arming, and we shall soon have twenty-five or thirty blazing away at us. On him! take him! There's enough, now all together!"

He had brought up his road agents and Cheyenne warriors, about sixty or seventy in number. There was not a ghost of a show for the youth, for he knew that it would be impossible for the boomers to reach him before they had overwhelmed him in numbers. But he resolved to defend himself to the last.

Again he had taken advantage of the lull in the attack to reload the empty chambers of his gun, and with cocked rifle waited for a renewal of the attack, which he understood would be his death struggle. Daisy had regained her consciousness, and realizing it all, asked:

"Is it not over yet?"

"No, but it soon will be. Here they come now. Good by."

The great line of horsemen coming on at a sweeping gallop, bore down upon him. They were almost within gunshot when suddenly a wild shout rose on the air, and a withering volley was poured into their ranks. The youth sprang to his feet, amazed at the sudden attack.

Bursting out from a wood near, was half a hundred blue-coated cavalry, headed by the irrepressible Ned Todd himself.

"Whoop, hooray! give it to them boys," shouted the borderer, dashing away at the head of the column, waving his hat in the air.

The soldiers followed, their guns and pistols flashing death at every jump. Saddles were emptied and the ground soon covered with men and horses. The bewildered red skins halted for a single moment, wavered and then broke and fled.

But that moment of hesitation was fatal to them. The cavalry was among them, and their bright sabres doing sad havoc. Utterly disheartened and terrified, they fled in every direction.

"What is it? what does it mean?" Daisy asked from where she lay.

"Deliverance has come," the youth shouted. "Soldiers are here and we are safe. Lie close to the ground and do not stir, lest you get hit with a bullet."

She obeyed him and kept close to the earth. The boomers came to their aid also, and the Indians and road agents were driven away or killed, for but little pains were taken to take captives.

"Well, boy, are you all right?" asked Ned Todd, dashing up to where the youth stood, ready to spend his last drop of blood in the defense of Daisy Miller.

"Yes, untouched," was the answer,

"And the girl?"

"Not badly injured. They shot my horse and I was slightly bruised by the fall," Daisy answered, springing to her feet.

"Well, I am glad to know it is no worse. When they got onto our racket so quick, and deserted me to follow you, I was afraid that after all our plan would be a failure."

"It would but for the soldiers. Where did you find them?" the youth asked.

"They were in the wood, into which I was chased, watching the Indians. There was something about them that was rather suspicious, they thought."

The boomers had by this time come up, and invited all to their camp. They went, and there Daisy found many acquaintances. There were those who had not yet heard of her father's awful death, and her own captivity. She was regarded as one returned from the dead. They were glad to have her with them once

more, and as she was weak and worn out, some good and nourishment was given her and then the best bed in the camp furnished her. Nature too long kept at a strain gave way, and in an hour after Daisy Miller was in the camp she was in a high fever.

A surgeon, by chance, was with the troop, and he at once administered medicine to her.

"Do you think that she is in a critical condition, doctor?" asked Archie Holland.

"I cannot tell yet," he answered. "She is young and may come out all right. I hope so at all events."

Archie went away from the tent in which the sick girl lay, with a heavy feeling in his heart.

Now that the road agents and Cheyennes had been dispersed and driven away, the Oklahoma boomers learned that there was another unpleasant surprise for them. The soldiers had come to drive them out of the country.

"It seems very hard, after we have braved so much and come here in this wilderness and built our homes, to be driven away," said one old boomer.

"I know that it seems hard," answered the officer in charge of the troops. "But we have our duty to perform, and we must do it. We shall give you a few days anyway, until the young lady can be removed, and then we shall have you returned to the States."

Archie heard this and he felt as if he could almost shed tears for these people. Someone touched his arm. He turned about and saw Ned Todd.

"What is it, Ned?"

"I say, now that these troops are going to stay here a week or two, wouldn't it be a good idea to get some of them and go back to that cabin where the idiot cripple is. I believe that from him we can get the secret of your father's mysterious disappearance."

"But would they go?"

"I know that the captain would send at least a dozen with us. That would be enough."

"But—but Daisy?"

"Oh, she will be well taken care of. Don't forget the original object of this visit."

Archie felt a little guilty that he should have to be reminded that his father was somewhere in that vast wilderness a prisoner.

"I will ask him; we will go!" he said. "That matter must not be given up."

They went to the captain and told him of their plan. The captain listened to it and when they were through, he said:

"I don't know that it will be acting in accordance to my orders."

"When you are so far from headquarters do you always wait to act upon orders? Does not the department sometimes give you latitude, some discretion?" asked Ned Todd.

"Oh, yes."

"Well, if ever latitude was given, it should be on this occasion. You have no time now to quibble about orders. Everything must be done now or never."

"Well, Major Todd, how many men will it require?"

"A dozen under a brave discreet officer, will be sufficient."

"Then you shall have them."

"When can we start?"

"As soon as you choose. In the morning if you wish."

"Tonight would be better."

"Very well; tonight be it then."

"Will you permit the men to volunteer?"

"Yes, any that wish to. Go and talk with them. See Sergeant Staves."

The sergeant was found and he was very anxious to be one of the party to go and exterminate such a formidable band of road agents as these in Oklahoma had proved to be. They had been guilty of robbing the United States mail on divers occasions, and sacking frontier villages.

"Yes, sir, you can count on me," said the soldier. "I would just like to beat such a frolic as that will be."

Twelve stout, brave young fellows were selected out of the command, and when armed with carbines and revolvers they prepared to set out for the strange cabin in the wilderness, as soon as it was dark.

Archie again called at the tent where the poor, delirious Daisy lay. She was sleeping, but her fever was very high.

"What do you think of her case?" he asked of the army surgeon.

"She is doing very well, I think, yet I have not had her under my care long enough for much change to take place. I hope that her fever may go down during the night."

It was a trying ordeal to go away that night and leave Daisy still in a critical condition, but if they should wait until she recovered they could not have the assistance of the soldiers.

At midnight the entire party, mounted on fresh horses, set out for the mysterious cabin in the forest. All night long they traveled without any incident worthy of mention, and at dawn of day halted in a large wood, where they remained in camp until noon, allowing their horses to rest and taking some sleep themselves.

About two o'clock in the afternoon the horses were again saddled and the small cavalcade started once more on the long, toilsome march. To Archie Holland, who was unaccustomed to such travel, the fatigue was almost too much. Nothing but his indomitable will kept him up during the journey.

At dusk they halted again, and gave their horses a chance to graze for an hour, and partook of some supper. Ned Todd, who acted as guide for the party, said that they could not be more than ten miles from the log cabin.

"What time will we reach it?" Archie asked.

"About midnight," he answered.

"That will be the best time to strike 'em," said the sergeant. "They won't be looking for us then, and we'll come on 'em unawares. We'll be apt to find 'em all asleep."

"If we can get the cripple away from them before they do him any harm, our secret will, I believe, be obtained. He can tell me where my father is, but if they should suspect that he is not the idiot he pretends to be they would kill him. We must take him away alive and unharmed."

After a halt of a couple of hours, the cavalcade again saddled their horses, and were once more on their way through the trackless forest toward the strange cabin in the wilderness.

Ned Todd, the irrepressible borderer, rode in

front, guided by his meagre knowledge of the country. He knew that they must be near the cabin, but again and again found himself at fault, and thus kept the party wandering about in the wood until three or four o'clock in the morning, before they came in sight of the cabin.

The moon had by this time risen and the sky being clear, filled the wood with light. They entered by the very same road which Todd and Archie had entered on their first visit to the place.

The great log cabin seemed very quiet. Not a sign of a living being was to be seen and Archie was asking himself if it was deserted.

The officer commanded them to dismount, which they did. Three men were left to hold the horses and the others advanced on foot to the cabin. First the house was surrounded, and then Todd, the sergeant, and two or three of the soldiers advanced to the door.

As they came to it someone inside the building, doubtless awakened from sleep by the tramping of feet, opened the door and gave utterance to a yell.

"Halt!" cried Todd, leaping toward the aperture.

Crack! went a pistol, and the bullet struck the buckle of the scout's belt.

"Come on, boys, here they are," Ned Todd shouted, and with a kick from his ponderous boot, he sent the door flying from its hinges. "Here they are! down with them!"

Then it seemed as if a pandemonium reigned within the house. Yells, oaths and groans mingled with pistol shots, made the night hideous. A cloud of black smoke rose from within and around the building, and masses of fighting, struggling men at last burst through the doors and windows of the building, and the conflict which had begun inside, was renewed in the yard about the house. From door and windows there sprang dark forms, and the flash of pistols and clash of steel was almost incessant.

"Here they are, sweep them from the face of the earth!" yelled the irrepressible Ned Todd, rushing like a cyclone through the building. One man rose from the floor and fired at him, but Ned seemed to hold a charmed life. Placing his own pistol at his would-be slayer's breast, he shot him dead, and then bounded over the body, pressing the others in so closely that they were compelled to beat a retreat to the rear.

In his flight, Captain Snell, wishing to cover up all the dark past of his life, seized a lighted candle and set fire to a tablecloth and some bed clothing, and then fled. On after him came the border detective and ranger, and just behind him, Archie Holland, the sergeant and several others.

They went thundering through the apartment where the idiot lay kicking and giggling with infinite delight. On, out into the rear yard, where the bandits halted for a last fight, Todd and Capt. Snell met face to face.

"Aha! it's you, meddling fool, that we have to thank for this," cried Snell. "Take that for your pains," and raising his pistol he snapped it in the face of the scout. It was well for Todd that it missed fire, for had it not it would have sent him to eternity.

"It's my time, now," he cried, and then with his own pistol he shot down the chief of road agents.

At this moment the flames were seen leaping out of the cabin, and Todd turning to Archie, cried:

"The cripple, the cripple, bring him out; he will burn."

It needed no second bidding. Archie sprang into the burning building and found the cripple already making his way toward the door. He seized him in his strong young arms, dragged him from the building and laid him on the grass at a safe distance.

The combat was by this time over. The road agents were either slain or had fled. Four or five bodies lay within the light of the burning building, their pale faces upturned to the sky. Archie recognized one among them, and going to his side bent over the body of the dying man.

"Oh, brother, brother!" he whispered, "don't you know me? Speak but one word to ask forgiveness, that I may have some hope for you in the future. Speak, oh, speak!"

The dying man opened his eyes, and looked upon the face gazing in pity and kindness upon him. But he did not utter a word. That tongue so long guilty of sin and deceit, was paralyzed and silenced forever.

"Speak, Ralph; oh, speak, and tell me where my father is. Oh, do tell me where I shall find my father!"

The man gazed at him a moment with a wild vacant stare, and then as the death shadows crept over his frame, a strange shudder convulsed his form. He was dying.

"Archie, Archie Holland," called a voice, and looking about the youth discovered to his utter amazement, the cripple sitting up. "Don't you know me?" he said.

"No."

"I do not wonder at it, I have changed so much. A change brought about by suffering and torture. I have a story to tell you all."

They gathered about the man who had suffered so much, and with breathless interest listened, while he narrated a story that seemed so wild, so impossible of belief, that they would almost be inclined to doubt it, but for the convincing proof that he gave them.

"Several years ago, I was one of the wealthiest cattle men in the West," he began. "I had a wife and one child, a bright-eyed son, in the States. I had a step-son, who proved to be my inveterate enemy. I gave him employment with my herds in the West, and he ran away from me, and I never heard of him for months. I did not dream that a band of road agents, that was at that time and has ever since been a terror and dread to the entire country, was under his control, but such was the fact. I determined to quit business in the West, and sold out my cattle, receiving in gold three hundred thousand dollars for them. I started for the nearest railroad station to go to the States, when I was pursued by the road agents, who had become aware of the amount of money I carried with me, and chased to within twenty-five miles of this place, where my faithful guide was murdered and I made captive. Before I was captured however, I managed to conceal my money where it has not been found to this day. I was brought to this cabin, and here tortured and burned with hot irons to tell where the money was buried, until I am the wretched helpless cripple that you see. My feet are only clubs, and my hands almost useless. But I kept my secret, and was thrown into a fever from my suffering, from which when I recovered I pretended to be an idiot. Believing that I was an idiot they ceased to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.)

# How to Paint a House Cheap

And Have It Guaranteed to Look

Better, Wear Longer and

Cost Less Than the Best

White Lead Paints

Never Fades, Cracks, Chalks, Peels

or Blisters, and is Not Af-

fectured by Gases

Fifty Sample Colors Prepaid to Any Address

Absolutely Free

The cost of painting the house and barn, out-buildings and fences is a heavy burden. Cheap paints soon fade, peel or scale off and white lead and oil costs so much and has to be replaced so often that it is a constant expense to keep the bright, clean appearance so desirable



The Waldorf-Astoria, New York City, one of the

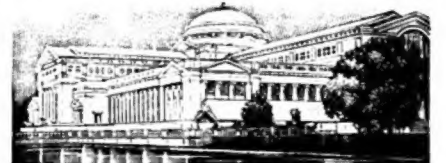
Most Magnificent Hotels in the World, Has

used Tons and Tons of the World-

Famous Carrara Paint

in the cosy cottage home or the elegant mansion. To meet the needs of the small purse and at the same time give the rich, lasting, protecting effect of a first-class paint caused the manufacture of Carrara Paint, and it is the best paint for house, barn or fence; for interior or exterior work it has no equal. It is smoother, covers more surface, brightens and preserves colors, is used on wood, iron, tin, brick, stone or tile, and never cracks, peels, blisters or chalks; it does not fade; it outlasts the best white lead or any mixed paint and it covers so much more surface to the gallon that it is cheaper in the first cost than most cheap paints. The following are a few of the large users of Carrara Paint:

Pennsylvania R. R. Co.; Pullman Palace Car Company; Chicago Telephone Company; Central Union Telephone Company; Field Museum, Chicago; Kenwood Club, Chicago; Cincinnati Southern; C. and E. I. R. R. Co.; Denver & Rio Grande R. R.; Wellington Hotel, Chicago.



The Roof of the Great Field Museum, Chicago.

Covering 7 Acres of Ground, is Painted

with Carrara Paint

From railroad box car to elegantly furnished general offices of the great railways; from race track fences and stables to fancy club house; from plain brick walls and stone fences to tin roofs and interior finish of stately hotels; from country barn or hay shed or cheap outbuilding to farm residence, suburban home or luxurious city residence, Carrara is used because it lasts longer, never fades, never cracks, never blisters, never peels, covers more surface than the highest priced paints and costs less than the cheap mixed paints that injure instead of protect. There is but one Carrara. It is made by the Carrara Paint Agency. General offices, 528 Carrara Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, and anyone having a house to paint should send for 50 sample colors, free, of this great paint that has stood the most rigid tests for 25 years, and bear in mind that it is the only paint ever manufactured that is backed by a positive guarantee in every case. Write to-day and save half your paint bills in the future.



# Our Home Workers

## Busy Bees with Thread and with Needle.



Baby's hamper.

CONSTANT inquiries come to us for directions for crocheting or knitting infants' wearing apparel, and the three articles which we illustrate and describe herewith are in response to these requests, which we trust will be acceptable to young mothers, and to their friends who wish to contribute something really serviceable and comfortable to the

three in point, nine single crochet, three in point, nine single crochet and so on.

Fifth row—One chain, three single crochet, three in point, four single crochet, skip one chain, one single crochet, skip one chain, four single crochet, three in point and so on, thirty rows of single crochet, long twenty-two points around sack (four on front eight on back and three under arm).

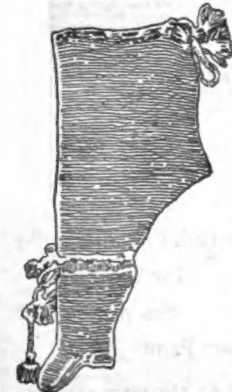
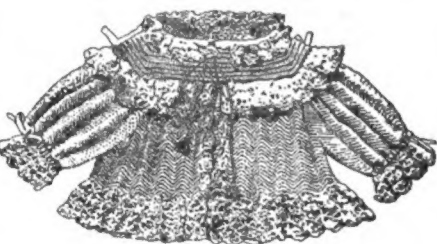
Border—First row—Three chain, then six long crochet in point, one long crochet in third chain, and so on, three rows back and forth, beginning on wrong side of white, then one row of white all around except the neck, then chain of color (three chain in every chain for edge).

Collar—Fifty long crochet in every other chain, two rows of white like border, chain of color.

Sleeve—First row—Begin midway under arm, three single crochet, three long crochet, opposite others and so on (seven long crochet groups, six single crochet groups over shoulder), (four single crochet groups, three single crochet groups under arm), thirty-one rows single crochet long, make same of body of sack.

Cuff—Draw together with chain in every other chain of color, then long crochet in every other chain: (thirty-one) three rows of white, chain of color like border. Frill around yoke same as sleeve.

Fourth row—One chain, three single crochet,



knit two purls (this makes the body). Next narrow at beginning and end of every other needle, till there are fifty-six stitches left; knit one needle, make row of holes, knitting one stitch, wool over, narrow, repeat to end of needle; knit two needles plain, one seam, one plain, one seam, one plain, on which narrow, beginning at end of needle, and continue to narrow every second purl till there are thirty-six stitches left. Knit eleven purls plain, then take the twelve center stitches and knit twelve purls; then knit stitches left on side and pick up ten stitches on each side of top piece. Knit five needles, bind off. Knit another leg like this except beginning gore at end of needle instead of beginning. This reverses it so as to make a pair. Sew up the legs, then pin and sew body, making gore on either leg join. Make cord and run in holes made at top and at knee.

The jacket here shown is crocheted, and the materials required are two skeins of cream colored saxony wool, two-fold for the body,—one skein of colored, three-fold for yoke and edge.

Yoke—One hundred and one chain. First row: twenty-four single crochet, taking up back of stitch, to form rib widen on the twenty-fifth and twenty-eighth stitches, forty-four single crochet, then widen the same as the other front. Widen every row, having first two stitches between widenings, then four, six, eight, and to thirty-eight. Always keep twenty-four stitches on front and forty-four stitches between widenings on back.

Jacket—First row—One chain for first stitch, single crochet in next two chains, long crochet in next three chains, three single crochet, three long crochet, three single crochet, three long crochet, three single crochet, ending in last chain of point, nineteen chain for armhole, three long crochet beginning in the last chain of point on back (eight long groups and seven short groups) on back, then same on other front. Break off every row.

Second row—One chain, three single crochet, three single crochet in point, five single crochet, three single crochet in point, five single crochet, long crochet in next three chains. Three single crochet, three long crochet, three single crochet, three long crochet, in point on back, five single crochet, and so on across the back, then same on front.

Third row—One chain, three single crochet, three in point, seven single crochet, three in point, seven single crochet, and so on.

three in point, nine single crochet, three in point, nine single crochet and so on.

Fifth row—One chain, three single crochet, three in point, four single crochet, skip one chain, one single crochet, skip one chain, four single crochet, three in point and so on, thirty rows of single crochet, long twenty-two points around sack (four on front eight on back and three under arm).

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### Three Chain Edge.

#### CROCHET TERMS.

Ch, chain; sc, single crochet; dc, double crochet; tc, treble crochet; stc, short treble crochet; dte, double treble crochet; p, picot.

All of the new woven laces that are used for trimming the cotton dresses this season are very odd in their construction of pattern. They have open work on one side and scallops or some fine stitches on the other side of the point. Those who can use the hook in making lace for themselves will perhaps find this pattern of use.

A chain of six, fasten with a slip stitch and turn.

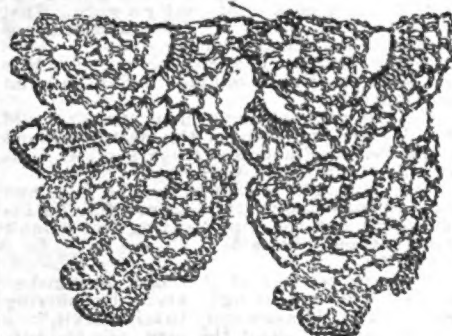
Ch 5, 1 tc, \*ch 2, 1 tc, \* repeat four times. \*ch 3, 1 sc, \*repeat three times. Under each ch 2, put 1 sc, 2 tc, 1 sc, go down and back with ch 3, 1 sc, twice, then ch 6, filled with 12 tc. All the open work is made of the ch 3, 1 sc, and can be seen by the illustration where it should be made.

After the open work, make ch 6 and fill with 12 tc, open work on the 12 tc make 6 holes of ch 2, 1 tc, fill each hole with 3 sc, continue open work.

Make ch 20, on this chain, make 8 holes, fill each hole with 3 sc, making 6 in the extreme end of ladder so that it will lie flat. Having finished the ladder make open work between it and the scallop below.

Cross the ladder and make 3 p of 5 ch each, fill with 6 sc, turn and work back with sc over the picots.

There are four rows of open work on the ladder. When going toward the point fill last three



THREE CHAIN EDGE.

chains with 6 sc; work back with sc, and continue open work to the straight edge.

Each Vandyke is made separately and joined as in illustration.

### Pinwheel Circle.

This little wheel may be used for a variety of things. I do not claim it as original, for I took the idea from the pinwheel lace, so will "go snacks" with its author on originality. I have made (by varying the thread) pin-cushion covers, toilet sets, baby carriage covers, plastrons, aprons, laces, and many other articles. The pin-cushion covers may be made to fasten diamond shape or square as preferred, on blue silk. Plastrons are made of 40 or 50 cotton. Very handsome aprons are made of a strip of ribbon or muslin and a row of circles, the ribbon being sewed into points at the bottom.

1. Make a ch of 30 stitches, join round; into this make 30 tr, 4 ch, turn.

2. 1 tr, 1 ch into each stitch of last row, 25 ch, turn.

3. 1 tr into 10th stitch (from needle) of ch, 2 ch, miss 2, 1 tr into next, 2 ch, miss 2, 13 tr in remainder of ch, fasten to ring of tr with 1 sc, ch 8, turn.

4. 1 tr with 2 ch between, in the 8th, 10th, 12th, and 14 stitches of last row, ch 8, turn.

5. \*Tr on tr, 2 ch, repeat once, 13 tr under 8 ch, fasten to tr in ring.

Make 16 of these arms, fastening first and last together. Join the wheels together by catching the 7 ch in end to 7 ch of other pinwheel.

In spaces made by joining wheels together use the tiny circles, worked as follows:

LITTLE WHEEL. Ch 30, join; in this ring work 32 tr, ch 5, turn.

2. Catch in 2d stitch, ch 4, catch in 4th stitch, continue this around, making 16 holes, ch 5, turn.

3. Fasten in 1st ch loop, ch 5, fasten in next loop, repeat.

4. Like 3d row, having 6 ch instead of 5.

If smaller pinwheels are desired, put less stitches into the ring, and make a less number of arms, and if the inner ring is too large, use double stitches instead of treble. By staining the wheels with coffee they become a rich ecru, and combine beautifully with blue. If desired, I will send directions for lace I have made of this.

JOSIE K. PURDY.

### Polka Dot Tatted Medallion.

There is nothing more popular in tatted and crochet work than medallions. Joined together they can be put to a great variety of uses in the way of centrepieces for the dining-table, large and small doilies, applied work for bureau scarfs, buffet and five o'clock table-covers, tidies, pin-cushion and sofa pillow covers.

When applied to linen as a decoration for corners, ends, etc., the medallions are first basted firmly in place, and are then buttonhole-stitched around the entire outer edge with embroidery cotton. The linen is then cut away underneath, leaving the design, which thus shows to the best advantage.

1st row—With 1 shuttle, 12 double, and 6 picots, close the ring.

2d row—With 2 shuttles, knot the threads into 1 of the picots of the first ring; 1 picot, 2 double, 1 long



POLKA DOT MEDALLION.

pass the thread through 1 of the picots of the 2d row, make 3 double, close the ring, leave one-eighth of an inch of thread, turn the work; 4 double, 1 picot, 4 double, close the ring, leave again one-eighth of an inch of thread, and repeat 11 times from \*. Tie the thread, making space one-eighth of an inch long.

4th row—With 2 shuttles, fasten the ends to 1 of the picots of the 12 rings of the third row, \* 3 double, 1 picot, 3 double. With one shuttle, 3 double, pass the thread through the picot, 2 double, 1 picot, 2 double, 1 picot, 3 double, close the ring. Close to this 3 double, pass the thread through the 2d picot of the 1st ring, 3 double, 1 picot, 3 double, close the ring. Again close to the last ring, 3 double, pass the thread through the picot of the 2d ring, 2 double, 1 picot, 3 double, close the ring. With two shuttles, 3 double, pass the thread through the second picot of the 3d ring, 3 double, fasten the thread to the picot of the ring of the 3d row, and repeat 11 times from \*.

5th row—With 2 shuttles, 6 double and 2 picots over the lower rings, and 10 double and 2 picots over the upper rings. Repeat all around, joining the picots of the figures of the 4th row between the two short loops, as the work proceeds. Worked with coarse thread, several of these medallions, over scarlet or blue, make a beautiful tidy.

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Wholly external. Comfortable. Adjustable to fit any figure (thin or stout). Worn with or without corset. No metal springs.

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## What Women Wear.

### Autumn Hints on What to Wear and How to Make It.

**E**ARLY fall calls for duck and pique coat suits, which are inexpensive, yet fashionable, and suitable for the season.

Black and white goods still continue to be the most popular.

Bold and daring are the September hats; many of these hats are trimmed with both fruits and flowers combined; for instance, cherries and the cherry blossoms and any other flowers with their fruits which suit the wearer. The heavy coarse straw is much used and a popular color in hat decoration is green.

Many of the new autumn skirts are made with yokes, and for cool days dresses are made of cashmere French flannel, or other soft woolen goods.

A serviceable coat is developed in red cloth finished with stitching, for a young girl.

Berge, cheviot and mohair are popular goods. Light gray homespun makes a smart suit, with a finish of braid.

Dark blue serge can be made up with pipings of black silk.

Crimson mohair with white braid trimmings is quite stylish for a little girl.

Fawn colored broadcloth will be stylish with large pearl buttons, for cloaks.

Little boys' coats are made on the double breasted box coat order, with turned back cuffs, any style of inexpensive material can be used with good effect. Red serge makes a pretty suit, trimmed with white collar and shield. Suits of plaid and sailor blouse of white flannel, alpaca and serge of any color can be made with good taste and effect for the small boys.

An attractive hat for early autumn is of heavy brown straw trimmed with brown berries and green leaves.

Hats of all green are worn with black dresses. Many shades of green are combined on one hat but very great care must be taken in the blending of these trying shades.

### Answers to Correspondents.

Miss Mary B., Trenton, O.—Your pale blue alpaca will add quite an attraction to your wardrobe. Put it in good shape for remodeling, then trim in bands of blue silk, a shade darker; graduate them from the bottom of the skirt to the knee; then begin again with a wide band and graduate to the belt; trim the bodice in the same kind of bands, graduating from the high collar to the belt; trim the sleeve in like manner, and finish the pouch at the waist with a band of silk; a wide sash of the blue silk is worn with this dress. (2) Do over the black taffeta silk; make it over with white, using both black and white lace. (3) A short coat with facings of moire, is as simple a coat as can be made, and yet very much up to date. This coat can be made short or three-quarters length, as preferred, with a coat sleeve or bell-shaped.

Miss Mollie R., Richmond, Va.—You can combine blue with green, but the blending is, most certainly, to be wisely considered, and the shading also. The parrot green and hyacinth blue can live in harmony, with more real satisfaction than most of the color combinations of the present date. The main color of the gown, however, must be blue, and the green comes in as an accessory. The selecting of the shades and colors and putting them together, requires a very careful and tasteful consideration, or else the gown is an entire failure. If managed rightly the effect is quite pretty. For instance, a blue blouse can be made to be worn with the solid blue skirt. Cut the blouse of taffeta silk, then set in narrow bands of green silk, and cover these bands with an open stitch in blue embroidery silk. This decoration is to be used only on the front and on the sleeves, collar and cuffs. The back of the blouse can be tucked diagonally, straight across, or lengthwise, and buttoned with small green silk buttons. This gown may be worn with a blue straw hat, trimmed with blue and a delicate touch of green; the note of green, if in harmony with the shade of blue, will produce an effect extremely smart and attractive.

Mrs. M. L. Columbus, Ky.—A suitable gown for an elderly person of quiet tastes can be made of gun metal gray goods, and an inexpensive one also; make a plain, gored, flared skirt, above the hem place three wide tucks; and the bodice is made with pin plaits falling from the shoulders half way down the front of the waist with full blouse at the belt. The V shaped neck opens over a collar and front of white silk; finish the bishop sleeve also with pin plaits. Lavender colored silk can be used instead of the white for the collar and front of the bodice, and a piece of lavender silk forms the girdle. This combination makes quite a becoming and also quite a serviceable gown.

Miss Martha N., Ashland, O.—An early fall coat suit of tan colored, light weight cloth will be what you need, the skirt laid in box plaits and stitched with silk of the new current red in many lines, this stitching forming a narrow point at the lower end where the folds are released to form a graceful fullness above the hem. The coat collar is trimmed with narrow bands of the velvet which are joined together by heavy black lace inserting, and then put on the collar. This is worn with a red silk waist. Red seems to take the lead, especially the fruit reds, in many of the fall costumes as well as in hats. Bright red pipings are also used upon gowns in plain colors. Hats of red straw garnished with black velvet ribbon are a most becoming and fashionable head wear. Small capes are also being made to wear with early fall gowns.

Miss D., Briceville, Tenn.—The ecrú veiling is always advisable, no matter what the design may be; a little alteration will change it from a summer to an evening gown for winter. It can be trimmed with guipure lace, pointed yoke effect, and long sleeves of lace, tight from the wrist to the elbow, tucking the top of the sleeve of veiling half way down, to fall in a pouch at the elbow. The founce on the skirt may be headed by inserting put on in deep pointed design.

Mrs. B. K., Oneida, S. D.—Your old time flowered silk dress is lovely, and will make an "up to date" gown of exquisite development. You certainly should be congratulated on its possession. Flowered materials both in silk and all the gauzy goods are the novelties of the present season.

Mrs. M. J., Pendleton, S. C.—How can I make a morning dress of linen of any color? Quite a comfortable and very stylish design is blouse effect, cut it surplus, and fasten with loops of heavy cord, and pearl buttons. This can be worn with or without a shield. With the skirt of linen you have a serviceable and most durable costume.

Mrs. Kate B., Howard, R. I.—For early autumn wear, the black taffeta silk can be worn with a white mohair waist embroidered in blue or stitching done in red, or in pale green which is the shade so much in demand. A sash of satin Liberty ribbon would give this costume an extremely smart and graceful finishing touch.

Mrs. N. W., Beaumont, Pa.—An evening gown, of any the thin, gauzy goods so much in vogue, would be quite pretty for a lady of forty, made of black satin striped gauze over white; mingle a bit of turquoise blue trimming, in sweet and simple harmony of design, and you certainly will enjoy the wearing. Have it made in any of the pretty new styles to suit the figure of the wearer.

Mary, Armonia, N. D.—The heavier grades of linen duck would make an advisable skirt; make with a circular founce not too wide, or folds of the

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same. This duck would also be suitable for the driving trip, worn with any waist. A small coat of any kind can be added if the weather calls for it. (2) No, as the autumn, hazy days creep upon us, we will for out-door wear put aside the Eton sleeve, and substitute the bishop or any long desirable one.

Mrs. W. Apex, N. C.—Yes, anything in white is what you should wear; it adds size and comfort also. Wear your skirts long and very plain in style if you wish to look taller. (2) Short jackets would suit you. (3) Dark colors for the street and all those of more brilliant hue for the evening gowns.

Mrs. Edith L., Garfield, N. M.—I would advise the crepon renovated and retinted; crepon is holding its own admirably while the newer ones are somewhat softer than those of other days, yet all are worn. Your crepon dress can be altered nicely; cut it over by a late pattern using new linings, and trim the skirt with taffeta silk, with one or two founces. Use the silk on the bodice in any pretty way suitable to the wearer; a bit of ecrú lace or inserting will freshen up the waist.

Mrs. B., Beverly, N. J.—Your coat should not be tight fitting in the front, but tight in the back; stout women should avoid too much trimming of any kind; never wear horizontal lines. Any tight clinging garment will be becoming.

Mrs. S., Candia, N. H.—Your very wide black silk skirt will produce an attractive and most charming result from your patience, skill and labor. Rip and wipe well with alcohol; press carefully on the wrong side over something black to prevent linting. Cut by one of the new, pretty, clinging skirt patterns and trim with bias folds to simulate tucks; head each fold from the bottom of the skirt running to the belt with narrow gimp. The waist can be made of black mousseline or dotted Swiss; this is tucked in three deep tucks across the waist below the armholes the width of the fold on the skirt; each tuck headed with the gimp. The same tucking is arranged at the lower part of the bishop sleeve.

Miss Blanche R., Hartwell, Mo.—Yes, the foulard can be lengthened by using a ruffle of black net; as it is black with a lavender flower design you can trim the ruffle in five or seven rows of lavender satin ribbon, also decorate the bodice in like manner.

Maud, Newberry, Mich.—I would suggest for early fall a dress of light weight serge trimmed in bands of silk Scotch plaid. As it is to be worn by a young Miss, it could be made gored skirt trimmed with six bands of plaid. The waist may be cut in any becoming style, and trimmed with the bands, box plait, back and front. Place the narrow silk band between the plaits, all the way to the belt, a yoke effect. The sleeves are still holding the effect of early summer, "bagging" below the elbow. These may be box-plaited across the top and gathered into a cuff, trimmed with bands of the silk.

Miss K., Alvin, Ill.—Yes, French knots will trim a flannel blouse very prettily. Use any design. If the flannel is blue, then use shaded blue silk for the knots, and an outlining through them of black. If the blouse is of brown flannel, use orange-colored silk for the knots, and a dash of white outlining. Do not make any of these decorations elaborate for a blouse.

Mrs. L. L., Winona, Miss.—Make the lawn skirt tucked diagonally; this adds to the smartness of the gown very greatly. It will take more goods, but after all, it will consume more time than money. You will have a dainty skirt in this way. Add a tucked founce, and trim the waist in the same manner. Any simple lace, or insertion, can be used. Lace seems to be the favorite finish for all garments.

Miss Martha V., Advance, Ind.—The colored autumn linens for waists should not be stamped. For the cross stitch, baste on acrim, and work over it, for the cross stitch, as in days of yore. When the stitching is finished, cut out the scrim.

Mrs. Dora H., Cambridge, Idaho.—No shade or color overrules the immense popularity of white. It will be worn as the cooler weather approaches on into midwinter in all sorts of heavier goods. (2) For a blouse, coarse white basket cloth in cotton would be suitable, ornamented with French knots.

Mrs. Nora W., Shelbyville, Ky.—The baby's cloak could be made of cashmere or any soft wool material in the most simple and babylike design. Line it with India silk or any soft inexpensive lining and do not make it longer than two or three inches below the skirt. The cloak for baby must be warm but not heavy.

Miss Susan R., Richmond, Va.—"Liberty Brilliant" is a name given to a soft clinging all silk goods, it drapes gracefully and has a satin finish. It is seen in street gowns as well as evening wear.

Miss Gertrude L., East River, Tenn.—Everything is ruffling, founcing and blousing; "simplicity" sits in sackcloth and ashes. (2) Yes, make every garment in the most "trimmed up" style. After all the lavish use of many different kinds of transparent fabric all the summer season, we hear a distant rustle in the close approaching autumn air which foretells of accessories yet unheard of for the finishing touches of the more weighty material, which are so soon to take the place of the summer novelties.

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back with this inscription in raised letters: "Other turtles have four feet, I have seven." The balance including the legs and head are made of enameled celluloid finished in shape and color to represent a live turtle. One of the most

pleasing work-basket and useful household conveniences imaginable. All our lady readers are interested in these bright little innovations that add to the pleasure of needlework and it is our good luck to have obtained a limited quantity of these Turtle Tape Measures to offer as a gift to any of our lady readers' who will send us two new yearly subscribers to COMFORT at 25c each. We send the turtle carefully packed at our expense upon receipt of the money with subscriptions.

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# Talks With Girls.

Conducted by  
Cousin Marion.

In order that each cousin may be answered in this column, no cousin must ask more than three questions in one month.

**T**HE summer is over, my dears, and the autumn is coming with its harvests of the year, and may it bring to you some of the good things that the deserving do not always fail to get. September is a pleasant month, and may you all enjoy it. Now let us to work.

The first to come with her questions is Cousin Daffodil of Montrose, Iowa, and she wants to know if a girl likes a man and he doesn't know it what should she do to let him find out? Dear me, oh, dear me. If he is so stupid as not to find out for himself, for goodness sake, Daffodil, don't do anything to let him know. How can you like such a stupid person?

Myrtle, Winchester, N. D.—August 31st, 1885, fell on Monday, and February 19th, 1889, fell on Tuesday.

Honeysuckle, Lebanon, Ohio.—Of course you must not correspond with a young man to whom your parents object. (2) If you are not engaged to the young man with whom you are corresponding, you may go with the young man at your home. (3) If the young man does not write to you, let him go, and don't bother over people who don't care for you.

Seline, St. Sylvester, P. Q.—Girls and boys of sixteen and eighteen have no business being engaged. (2) No girl should marry before she is twenty-one; better wait till she is twenty-five. (3) No kissing except between engaged couples; and not too much of it then.

M. B., Montrose, Ia.—The only way to treat a strange man who attempts to force his attentions upon you is to ask some decent man, policeman or otherwise, to take him in hand and rid you of him. "Mashers," as they are called, ought to be tarred and feathered and driven to the woods.

Mary and Fan, Utica, N. Y.—Ask the young man what he means by calling steadily once a week. He may mean to rob the house. (3) "Huggybuggies" are very improper.

Belva, Alton, Pa.—It is not improper to place flowers on the desk of the Professor you like, but it is not commendable. Don't do it.

B. and T., Tecumseh, Neb.—The only way to secure beaux is to make yourselves attractive in a sweet, womanly way. Nice men like that better than anything. (2) There are many "latest historical novels." Some of them are "A Virginian," "The Mississippi Bubble," "The Conqueror," "Dorothy Vernon of Haddon Hall," and "Hearts Courageous."

Jackson, Miss.—Some one, who signs no name of any kind, asks a whole lot of questions which she wants answered as they are written. They are as to what is proper, and I can answer all of them by a simple No. She should not do any of the things she asks about.

Sweetheart, Cooperstown, Pa.—Sixteen is too young to formally receive men's attentions. (2) Treat your escort home as pleasantly and politely as you know how, but not effusively. You may invite him in, even though it is the first time he has taken you home, if it is not late, or at any hour if the other members of the family are about and the house is still open.

Rosebud, Brownstone, Ill.—You may visit the home of your fiancé for any length of time, provided his people ask you to. (2) Opals are not bad luck for anything, but they are not used as engagement rings. Only a diamond. (3) No time is set on engagements. It is a matter to be determined by those most interested.

Ignorance, Rochester, N. Y.—Your mother is probably a better judge of young men than you are and you will do well not to encourage any one to whom she objects.

Innocence, Markville, La.—You are a little young, possibly, to marry, but under the circumstances, I think I would not wait two years. If the man is all right and able to support you, marry any time this autumn. (2) The engagement ring is worn on the third finger of the left hand. You might let near friends see what is inside of it. (3) The young man should return the letters without being asked, when the engagement is broken.

Blue Eyes, Alma, Wis.—August 5th, 1882 fell on Saturday.

A. C. R., Cleveland, O.—A letter addressed to either man, New York City, will be delivered. Don't know their street numbers, but it is not necessary.

Three Hayseeds, Sprague, Wash.—Ask your mother. (2) May 14th, 1880, fell on Friday; July 9th, 1888, Monday. (3) What kind of a "how" do you mean? A bow of ribbon?

Unhappy Girl, Carroll Co., Md.—Under all the circumstances I think you and the young man should talk your affair over thoroughly, and come to some kind of positive agreement. Of course your mother will oppose it, but if the young man is worthy and can support you your mother's prejudice may be overcome. Do not be in a hurry to marry, because that may make matters worse. Be sure you are right before you go ahead.

Dew Drop, Manchester, Ia.—There is no such place known for a certainty. You will have to send your stories in and see what the editor thinks of them. Try your local editor first and get his opinion.

L. J., Helena, Mon.—There is no cure for blushing except self-possession. Study to be unconscious of yourself. Think about other people and what they are like, and get your mind off of your own self.

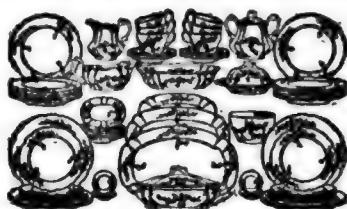
Violet, Hartwell, Neb.—If the man is worthy, the objection of the parents should not be considered. Prejudices may be overcome. (2) When a man is in love with a girl she will always know it, unless he is a knave and she is stupid. (3) Don't exchange photographs except with your parents' consent.

Western Beauty, St. Francis, Kans.—You are too young, if I am able to judge from the questions you ask.

Nell, Greensboro, N. C.—Tell the young man who is staying in the house that it is bed time, when the hour has come. He may know himself that as a house visitor he should not stay in the parlor any longer than if he were merely making a call. (2) On coming in after the family has retired, simply go to your respective rooms.

Cinderella, Saint Francis, Kans.—If he wants to propose he will do so, and if he does not, do you think it would be pleasant for you to fish around and find out that he didn't want you? It is not your place to take the lead. (2) It is not un lady-like to stop on the street to talk with a man, but the conversation should be brief. (3) You might give a man a simple scarfpin, but no expensive jewelry.

M. S., Fairmont, Texas.—Men don't usually give watches to ladies unless they are engaged to them, and not often then; but if the lady accepts one she wears it. (2) A solitaire diamond is the engagement ring and it is worn on the third finger of the left hand.



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For selling 10 one-pound cans **QUEEN BAKING POWDER**, and to each purchaser of a can, we give **FREE A PITCHER AND SIX GLASSES**, latest cut glass pattern. (These Dinner Sets are high grade, are handsomely decorated in flowers of 4 colors, and each piece heavily traced with gold.) We also give \$5.00 and 112 Piece Dinner Sets, Shirts, Waists, Suits, and many other valuable premiums for selling our products. We also give cash commission. Write today for Illustrated Plans offering everything in glassware, granite ware, etc. to customers; it will pay you. No money required. See risk absolutely nothing, as we send you the goods and premiums you select, pay freight and allow you time to deliver the goods and collect for them before paying us. **AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., 806-S N. Main St., Dept. 57, ST. LOUIS, MO.**



Troubled Girl, Hill Side City, N. Y.—If there is no objection to the man except that he is a Catholic, you might take that risk, though such marriages are not always the happiest. If you love him and he loves you the church part of it may be disregarded, also the mother's opposition. (2) I do not see any impropriety in acting as his stenographer.

Sweetheart, Krug, Md.—April 22, 1887, fell on Friday; April 17, 1889, fell on Saturday.

There, dears, all your questions are answered, and I hope you will take them to heart and think them over and get all the good out of them that is intended. By, by. **COUSIN MARION.**

## Manners and Looks.

"Virtue itself offends, when coupled with forbidding manners."—Bishop Middleton.

Miss M. D. Ithaca, Mich.—There are many books on etiquette, and they range in price from twenty-five cents to a dollar and a half. Mrs. Sherwood's "Manners and Social Usages" is one of the best, price \$1.50. Ask your book-store man to get it for you.

May Blossom, Pella, Ia.—Which one of a couple must give up his or her church for the other is a matter to be settled between them. Neither has a greater claim than the other, if both are church members. (2) Complexion hasn't anything to do with choosing a mate, I fancy. Blondes and brunettes may choose as they please. (3) Yes.

Beatrice, Drakesboro, Ky.—Sixteen year old girls should wear their dresses just below the shoe-top, depending somewhat on the height and size of the girl. Some girls of that age are larger than their mothers, and a large girl must dress more like a woman than a girl. (2) To remove freckles dissolve in half an ounce of lemon juice, one ounce of Venice soap and add a quarter ounce each of oil of bitter almonds and deliquated oil of tartar. Let the mixture remain in the sun till it becomes a paste, then add three drops oil of rhodium and keep for use. Apply as follows: Wash the face at night with elderflower water, and anoint with the paste. Wash it off in the morning with rosewater, used copiously. (3) What is said to be a fine hair restorer is made as follows: Sugar of lead half ounce; laosulphur, half ounce; essence of bergamot, half ounce; alcohol, half gill; glycerine, three ounces; tincture of cantharides, half ounce; ammonia, half ounce. Mix all in one pint of soft water. The hair must be perfectly clean before applying, and the mixture must be rubbed into the roots.

Violet, Heartwell, Neb.—The best way for a girl of seventeen to do up her hair is to choose the most becoming way. It does not matter if it is not quite what is fashionable if it makes her look better that way than any other. The Pompadour is probably more worn than any other, but it is not becoming to many faces.

Miss M. G. H., Cleveland, O.—Why not advertise your hair remover in "Comfort?"

Gum Drop, Smoot, Wyo.—There is no set form for asking a man to call. Simply tell him you would be glad to have him call. (2) A lady may go with as many men to ice cream in one evening as she can find room for the ice cream. There is no rule. (3) No, the lady should keep her gloves on. (4) If there is no room at her own house, the lady should borrow the parlor of some friend. This is often done with those who have small houses. (5) Basket ball, yes. (6) No.

Hayseed, Sprague, Wash.—See answer above to "Violet."

Ignor, Rochester, N. Y.—It is proper to ask a man to call, and to tell him what time you will be at home. If you have no time definitely when you receive callers, it is enough to ask him to call.

Katie, St. Peter, Minn.—It may be proper enough for two ladies and two men to leave the ballroom to go for a walk, but it is not usual, and ladies in ball costume are not in walking condition ordinarily. (2) Not in the best society, but possibly in the "Bowery." (3) A lady who was at all diffident would scarcely permit herself to be the only woman in a company of men, no matter how elegant the company might be.

Married Lady, Farmer City, Ill.—No reply is necessary. (2) Fold your napkin loosely only, and lay it beside your plate. (3) A formal bow is sufficient in speaking to men or women. A smile is always agreeable. (4) A pretty neck needs no necklace, but if one is worn let it be simple. (5) Tannin will not make the lips thin that we have ever heard of. Nothing will. (6) Lemon juice is not hurtful to skin or stomach if not used to excess. (7) Don't know about the lotion formula you submit. Try it and see if it is effective.

Beatrice Turner, Mecumseh, Neb.—For blackheads there is no certain cure. Eat plain food for the blood and take plenty of exercise. Wash the face in warm water and soap, using a soft flesh brush. As a lotion use a mixture of pure brandy, two ounces; cologne, one ounce; liquor of potash, one half ounce. Apply at night after pressing the blackheads out, and thoroughly washing the face in hot water and soap.

Belva, Alton, Pa.—You may say either "Beg your pardon," or "Pardon me," with a preference for the latter. But do not use it too often. (2) Simply tell him he may go with you, if you want him to go.

Minnie S., Montrose, Ia.—See answer above to "Violet."

Blue Bell, Lebanon, O.—At a small dance if two or more couples wish to stroll beyond the dancing room, there is no impropriety in it, especially if the night be warm. It would not be good form at a formal dancing party, though some of the daring might do so.

Mrs. D. C. L. Independence, Mo.—It is the custom in the larger cities for ladies to reserve one day in the week when they are at home to callers and callers are expected on that day. If they call at other times they may be received or not as the lady chooses, and they should not criticize her for not being at home on "off days." Ladies should afford this rule in the smaller towns, where a great deal of valuable time is wasted by indiscriminate callers who "run in" at any hour and don't seem to know when to run out. Of course in the large cities this kind of informal visiting is not possible.

Two Ladies, Oxford, Miss.—We do not know of any place in which the ladies of the town enter into an agreement among themselves to give their town more social life by taking turns through the winter at giving an afternoon reception one day in the week, say, Wednesday, from 3 to 6, but we can readily see what a benefit it would be to all. Such receptions or teas, would be informal, would cost little or nothing for refreshments as the simplest things would be served, people could drop in and out again, even the men could come in for a few minutes, and the whole social life of the place would be encouraged and improved. We heartily recommend your trying it and would advise the ladies of other small towns to do the same. It would not be necessary to send out invitations. All your acquaintances would be welcome, and they could

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SEND US \$1.00 deposit, state if the \$4.95 or \$5.95 gun is wanted, give length of barrel and gauge desired, and we will send this guaranteed long distance single barrel shotgun (7.0) D. by express, subject to examination, you to pay the express agent the balance and express charges, after you find it perfectly satisfactory, otherwise we will refund your \$1.00.

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bring such visitors as they might have with them. Social life in the small towns is too narrow, and too much in cliques, and it should be broadened by just such a liberal policy as you propose and we should be glad to hear after the season is over, what success you have had.

Kathryn, Paris, Texas.—It is considered "smart" for the lady to drive, but she should have a turn-out to match. That is, if she has an old-fashioned buggy with a "Dobbin" of a horse, she ought to let the man do the driving. With a cart and a smart horse, she could take the lines herself.

John K. L., Napoleon, Ind.—The man always takes his hat off when speaking to a lady in passing, or to a man with a lady whom he does not know. He should keep his hat on when talking to a lady on the street or out of doors generally, though a piazza might not be considered to be out of doors. In a store, while he might remove his hat when he spoke to the lady and keep it off while talking briefly to her, he would put it on again if they remained in company and went about the store together. This rule prevails usually in all public places.

Orange Lilly cures Leucorrhoea, Ulceration, Displacement, Painful Periods. For a free trial address, Mrs. H. L. Fretter, Detroit, Mich.

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By many years of constant study and experiments I have perfected a simple, harmless vegetable remedy that will quickly cure all female diseases, as well as the piles. It is nature's own remedy and will not only relieve, but will absolutely, thoroughly and permanently cure the ailments peculiar to women, such as falling of the womb, leucorrhoea (whites), displacements, ulceration, granulation, painful or scanty periods, irregular menstruation and all the pelvic ills of women. It positively cures rectal ulcers, piles hemorrhoids, tumors, itching, blind or bleeding piles in either sex. It cures promptly, privately and permanently without the repugnant methods in general use by physicians. You can escape embarrassing examinations, avoid humiliating exposures, cheat the surgeon's knife out of baptism in your blood.

The treatment is so simple, mild and effectual that it will not interfere with your work or occupation. Thousands and thousands of letters are being received from grateful persons from all parts of the world who have been cured by the use of this remedy. The first package is free, send for it—send to-day. I know that a fair trial of it will result in your becoming its enthusiastic advocate and friend. With it I will send literature of interest and value. Do not neglect this opportunity to get cured yourself and be in a position to advise ailing friends.

Consider well the above offer and act upon it at once. It is made in the sincere hope of aiding you and spreading the knowledge of a beneficent boon to sufferers. Earnestly, hopelessly, faithfully, Mrs. CORA B. MILLER, 1 Comstock Bldg., Kokomo, Ind.

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in a permanent influential business that will make for you more money and more friends than you ever had before. Be your own boss. No matter what you are doing write us if you wish to earn more money. We start only one in each locality. We supply everything. Write to-day, tomorrow may be too late. Address, The Lycosite Co., Dept. 8, 3831 Baring Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Do you feel yourself deficient as to a plump, well-rounded figure? Is your bust measurement all that you desire? Are there hollow places above and below your collar bone? What ever you may lack in the way of perfect form or figure Nature will supply for you if you use the **VESTRO** method. A request from you to the Aurora Co., Chicago, will bring to you free of cost a sealed package in plain wrapper giving you full information how you can in the privacy of your own room, increase your bust measure 6 inches in a short time and develop and perfect every part of your form. They also send free, new beauty book, showing photos from life, with testimonials from many prominent society ladies, who have used this safe, sure and rapid method. Write to-day.

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Latest Novelty, Bring Luck. Exact reproduction of a well worn shoe. Heavily plated. Our mammoth Catalogue of Jewelry and Novelties sent. **CURTIS JEWELRY CO. FREE** 145 Park Street, ATTLEBORO, MASS.

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By the planet under which you were born. Just as the tide rises and falls with the moon, I point out the dangers and the way to success in love, marriage and business. My forecasts are truly wonderful—to many worth a fortune. I will give you a trial reading free. Send date of birth, enclosing 2 stamps. **Prof. C. O. ZADKIEL, Bx 1187, Philadelphia.**

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This watch has American movement fully warranted to keep correct time. The case is Solid Gold Filled, equal in appearance to a Gold Filled Watch warranted 20 years. We give it FREE to Boys and Girls or anyone for selling 30 pieces of our handsome jewelry at the week. Send your address and we will send the jewelry postpaid, when sold send us the \$1 and we will positively send you the watch and chain. **ERIE MFG. CO., Dept. 24, Chicago.**

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If ruptured write to Dr. W. S. Rice, 1019 Main St., Adams, N. Y., and he will send free a trial of his wonderful method. Whether skeptical or not get this free method and try the remarkable invention that cures without pain, danger, operation or detention from work. Write to-day. Don't wait.

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The very latest. Works like magic. It will surprise you. To put the matter in a nutshell: It's The Automatic Wonder. Dotted lines show sphere of Expanding Power. Will give thorough interior douche whether expanded or not. Do not be misled by a seeming similarity to certain inferior instruments, but send 3-cent stamp for illustrated book—SEALED. It gives interesting particulars and invaluable advice to ladies. **JULES L. KOELLING & CO., 55 Franklin Street, CHICAGO.**



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Yonkerman of Kalamazoo, Mich.—State  
Officials and Great Medical Men Pro-  
nounce it the Only Cure for  
Consumption and All Throat  
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Consumptives Given up to Die and  
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DR. D. P. YONKERMAN, the Discoverer  
of Tuberculozine the Only Cure  
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has at last been discovered by Doctor Derk P.  
Yonkerman, a great Michigan doctor who has made  
a life study of this fatal disease. His wonderful  
remedy has been fully tested and rigidly proven a  
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JAMES A. BOYLAN, Kalamazoo, Mich.  
Cured of Consumption.

Mr. Boylan says: "Tuberculozine (Yonkerman)  
has cured me completely of consumption."

"Three years ago I contracted a cough and a cold  
that hung on and that I could not break up. I had  
hemorrhages and four physicians of this city pro-  
nounced my case consumption of the lungs and  
advised me to go South, as they thought it might  
prolong my life a little. I continued to grow worse  
until I was very weak and had to quit work. I  
thought my case hopeless but was persuaded to  
take Tuberculozine and to-day I am as well as  
ever and able to work at my trade (tailor) every  
day. I have gained 18 pounds and am increasing  
in weight and Dr. Yonkerman cured me."

The doctor makes no secret of the ingredients of  
his wonderful cure, believing that the people are  
entitled to such a production of science, and he  
is sending free treatments all over the world bring-  
ing joy of knowledge of certain rescue from this  
awful fatal disease. Such eminent scientists as  
Koch, Linton, Pasteur and all the great medical  
and germ specialists and chemists have already  
repeatedly declared that the consumptive germ  
cannot live a minute in the presence of the in-  
gredients of this wonderful remedy that has  
already revolutionized the treatment of consump-  
tion and has taken it from the catalogue of deadly  
fatal diseases and placed it in the curable list.  
Free treatments, proof of tests, already made and  
letters from grateful people—former consumptives  
rescued from the very jaws of death are sent free  
to all who write to the Yonkerman Chemical Co.,  
590 Shakespeare Building, Kalamazoo, Mich. Dr.  
Yonkerman has organized his own company, de-  
spite rich offers from corporations, so that he can  
be sure that all consumptive sufferers on the face  
of the earth will have this marvelous and only  
genuine cure for consumption at a price within  
the reach of the poorest person. Write to-day. It  
is a sure cure and the free trial sent you will do  
you more good than all the medicines, cod-liver  
oils, stimulants or changes of climate and it will  
convince you that at last there has been discovered  
the true cure for consumption. Don't delay—there  
is not an hour to lose when you have consumption  
or any throat or lung trouble. Send to-day for  
Free treatment.

Ned Todd.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

torture me. I have lived a terrible life all these  
years, and it is a wonder that I did not go mad.  
I lived only with a hope of some day having  
revenge, and that hope has at last been realized.  
Here lies the man who has caused me all my  
woe. And it is no wonder that my own son  
did not know me, so greatly have I been  
changed by suffering."

The youth now recognized his father in that  
mis-shapen cripple, and throwing himself upon  
his neck, wept:

"Father, father! found at last!"

CHAPTER XX.  
CONCLUSION.

After the excitement attending the discovery  
had somewhat subsided, the sergeant made a  
short inventory of their losses. They had one  
man killed, another wounded, while four of the  
road agents were lying stiff and lifeless upon  
the ground, their chief one of the number, and  
they had good reason to believe that two or  
three of those who had escaped did not get  
away unscathed. It was a decided victory.

We will state here for the benefit of the  
reader, that the band of Captain Snell has never  
been heard of since that night. Those who es-  
caped doubtless were too much afraid of the  
power of the law, which was capable of reach-  
ing out even into the wilderness to protect  
people, to again openly defy it.

Mr. Holland told his son that his money was  
buried in a large cavern, which he had acci-  
dentally found. He thought that it was in an  
easterly direction from the hut. Daylight  
dawned, and they were about to bury the dead  
robbers before going in search of the cavern of  
death, which both Archie and Ned Todd knew  
must be the cavern alluded to, when they were  
suddenly startled by a wild cry, and Oklahoma  
Peg suddenly burst from the wood, and  
running to the side of the road agent chieftain,  
fell upon her knees and burst into the most  
frantic fit of weeping.

"Oh, he is dead, he whom I loved, but who  
was losing his love for me," she cried. Wilder  
and wilder grew her sobs and cries, until she,  
in a fit of frenzy, snatched a small silver  
handled dagger, which she wore in the belt  
about her waist, and before any one could  
interfere to prevent her, plunged it to her  
heart.

Side by side, the road agent and his injured  
bride were buried. Then the others were put  
beneath the sod, and with only a few relics the  
party set out to find the cavern of death.

Ned Todd's skill and judgment in wood  
craft again stood them in need. Had it not been  
for him, it is doubtful if they could have found  
it.

Archie Holland rode by the side of his crippled  
father, and the latter told him all about  
his horrid captivity, and how he had prayed  
for liberty. And that the vengeance of the Lord  
might fall upon the men who had inflicted such  
a fearful punishment upon him.

The cavern was reached, and they all entered.  
Mr. Holland recognized the place. He said  
that it had evidently been inhabited two hun-  
dred years before by some of the old Spanish  
explorers under De Soto, as he had found a full  
suit of armor, and two or three old matchlocks  
of the period.

The gold was buried under the approach to  
the natural bridge and it proved to be under  
the very stone which Archie Holland had  
knocked over into the torrent below, when he  
saved the life of the detective by catching him.  
But for some dust and debris that had settled  
upon the great iron chest in which the gold  
was kept, it would have been discovered when  
the loose stone was rolled off from it.

"Here it is, and all right," said the father.  
"Now let us reach the settlement as soon as  
possible, and then we will live happily, my  
son."

When they returned to the boomers' camp,  
they found Daisy much improved, and the  
whole party one week later was ready to start  
for Kansas.

They reached the city of Abeline, where the  
youth and his father were to take the train for  
their eastern home. Before parting from the  
boomers, Mr. Holland made each of them a  
present in gold, which to a considerable extent  
compensated them for their loss in Oklahoma.

Daisy had no relatives left, and Archie Hol-  
land had grown to love the poor friendless girl.  
When she had regained her health, he proposed  
marriage and was accepted. His father ap-  
proved the union, and saw no reason of delay-  
ing the marriage. After considerable persua-  
sion, the bashful, modest Daisy consented to  
become his wife at once, and the next day they  
were married in the little white church, which  
stands just in the outskirts of Abeline.

A few days later they took their departure.  
First, before going, Archie paid the sum agreed  
upon to Major Todd, the border scout and  
detective, for his very faithful and effective  
services rendered in the search for his father.

Then with his young wife he went to his old  
home, where he engaged in a prosperous mer-  
cantile business. His crippled father is an in-  
mate of his household, and is pitied by all who  
know of his great misfortune and suffering.  
There is no more misporting and honorable  
business man in the city where he lives, than  
Archiebald Holland.

THE END.

Those who have read "Ned Todd" will be  
interested to know that in our next issue we  
shall commence another thrilling Indian story  
even more interesting and exciting than that  
which finishes above. The October number  
will contain the first chapters of

JACK HARKAWAY OUT WEST  
AMONG THE INDIANS,  
by Bracebridge Heming.

You cannot afford to miss one chapter of  
this exciting story of adventure, so if you are  
not a subscriber or if your subscription expires  
with this number send 10c. with the coupon  
which you will find on page 11 of this paper.

Is your name in the list on page 15? If it is  
it may pay you to get a copy of "Comfort's  
List of Heirs." Send in coupon at foot of  
page 15.

## The Home Finder.

Paid up subscribers who desire to make a change in their  
present situation or are in any way uncomfortable in their  
abode and want information about any particular location  
in any State in the Union can address "The Comfort Home  
Finder," Augusta, Maine, and we will try and serve them.

Notice. Many of those applying for information to this  
column ask us to advertise their property for them by calling  
the attention of home seekers to their possessions. We cannot  
do this except at the usual advertising rates. We can only  
refer seekers to persons in authority who will furnish infor-  
mation in detail for the benefit of their respective states and  
neighborhoods.

E. S. West, Stafford, Conn.—Our advice is not to  
try fox raising in Alaska unless you have unlimited  
capital. If you have money you can employ men  
to live on a fox island, but if you tried it yourself  
you would soon wish you were back in Connecti-  
cut. The climate is cold and damp, especially  
on the island, and you would be about as lonely  
as Robinson Crusoe was. The fox raising in  
Alaska is done either by natives, or companies  
with capital who employ natives to do the work.

Emma Wigglesworth, Altavista, Mo.—We know  
of no Ozark Mountain circulars. Write to Geo. P.  
Ellis, Secretary State Board of Agriculture, Colum-  
bia, Mo., for information, stating to him just what  
you want to know. Don't leave it to him to tell  
you, but ask the questions to cover all points.

Louis C. Gregory, Floresville, Texas—Your ques-  
tion is not in our line. Write to the editor of any  
agricultural paper in your state inclosing postage  
for reply.

Mrs. Laura Powell, Pollak, Texas—We are not  
landscape gardeners in this department and would  
not like to offer advice at this distance. In our  
opinion, however, you are as good a judge where to  
place your trees and shrubs as a professional  
would be, and better than any book could tell you.  
Set them out to suit your own taste and you will be  
better satisfied than if you had come one else to  
do it for you by rules of gardening that you did  
not understand. The chief point to be observed  
in setting out shade trees is to locate them where  
they will furnish shade where it is most needed  
during the hottest hours of the day. Comfort is  
of more value in this regard than rules of Art.

Mrs. Mary Robinson, Widdowfield, Wyo.—Write  
to Commissioner of Public Lands, Washington, D.  
C. and to Hon. J. H. Vaughn, Territorial Treas-  
urer, Santa Fe, N. M., for information concerning  
desert lands. New Mexico has over fifty-five mil-  
lion acres of public lands subject to entry and set-  
tlement, over fourteen millions of which are not  
yet surveyed.

M. D. Niangua, Mo.—We do not know the school  
laws of Arkansas, but you can get all information  
by writing to State Superintendent of Schools,  
Little Rock. There is something over three mil-  
lions of acres of public lands in Arkansas, most of  
which we fancy is hardly tillable. Write to Land  
Commissioner, Washington, D. C., or to Hon.  
Frank Hill, Commissioner of Agriculture, Little  
Rock, Ark. We fancy you would find as many  
teachers in Arkansas as you do in Missouri. If  
you are determined to teach why not write to the  
War Department at Washington and find out about  
schools in the Philippines?

Old Man, East Kingston, N. H.—We do not know  
positively, but we believe there is no part of the  
country where stomach troubles may be benefited  
by climatic conditions. In some localities where  
there are certain kinds of medicinal springs you  
might live, and by constantly using the waters  
have relief. Just where that would be could only  
be determined by your own efforts in finding the  
right place. There is no spot where there are  
greater varieties of waters than at Saratoga  
Springs, N. Y., and that is as near to you as any  
other. Farms are not high in that locality, nor is  
property expensive in the suburban part of the  
town of Saratoga. Have you ever been there?

Mrs. E. G. C. Gravel Junction, Col.—The western  
part of Florida in most respects is very desir-  
able. It has its drawbacks like every other spot on  
earth. Land is worth all the way from 25 cents to  
twenty-five hundred dollars an acre. Good orange  
lands can be had from \$25 an acre up, according to  
location and condition. Health is generally good  
and the climate is delightful for ten months of the  
year if you are close to the water. What business  
would pay best is one of the questions that the  
most skillful cannot answer offhand. You must  
find that out by trying. Lee county, which has the  
longest coast line of any county on the Gulf, is  
said to be very promising to the newcomer. Pine-  
apples, oranges and all kinds of southern fruits  
and vegetables reach the highest perfection. For  
full information write to Philip Isaacs, Editor  
The Press, Fort Myers, Fla., who is on the spot and  
knows.

Thomas K. Batavia, Ohio.—Write to J. R. Young,  
Humboldt, Tenn., for proposition to go into  
stock raising.

Landlord, Emporia, Kan.—There is a letter at  
this office which will be forwarded if your address  
is furnished.

Mrs. Allie West, Corning, N. Y.—Lumbering  
has been actively pushed in South Carolina  
and it would be hard to say what are lumbering  
towns. About 68 per cent. of the state is believed  
to be covered with merchantable timber, and no  
doubt an active man from the north might do well  
there. Write to Hon. M. R. Cooper, Columbia, for  
information, asking him to refer your letter to  
some one in the lumber business who is reliable.  
Georgia contains three times as much standing  
timber as South Carolina, and within the last ten  
years the business has largely increased. We have  
no details or figures, but if you will write to Hon.  
O. B. Stevens, Commissioner of Agriculture, At-  
lanta, asking him to refer your letter to some re-  
liable dealer, you will be put in the way of finding  
out all you want to know before going there to see  
for yourself.

Farmer, Altoona, Okla.—If you can get \$200 a  
year, even in grain, for a farm costing \$2,000 you  
are doing much better than you could in anything  
in our knowledge. Land anywhere east of the  
Mississippi that will produce twenty bushels of  
wheat to the acre is worth from \$50 an acre up, and  
you can easily calculate what kind of an income  
you would get from a \$2,000 farm. There are some  
towns where you could buy small houses for rent-  
ing, that might bring you in gross \$250 to \$300 a  
year, but they are extremely hard to find and rents  
would likely go down with the erection of a very  
few extra houses. \$300 a year, which you seem to  
think you can get on your \$2,000 to invest, means  
15 per cent. and money is hardly worth that these  
days when three per cent. government bonds are  
selling at a premium. You will either have to  
come down in your notions or find something that  
every one in this country with money would only  
be too glad to get hold of. Why not go to Wash-  
ington or Oregon and loan your money on mort-  
gages? You can get from ten to twelve per cent.  
on it there. If you want to take the risk, which is  
not great if you are there to look after it yourself.  
Write to H. W. Weiss, Emporia, Va., for list of Vir-  
ginia farms for sale. You can get a good farm  
there for your money, but whether you can rent it  
or not is to be discovered later.

Mrs. Milton Williams, Fayette, Mo.—As far as  
we know Florida is not the country for stock  
farms, at least not live stock. They raise fruit and  
vegetables down there. Any of the summer re-  
sort towns, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Miami,  
Ft. Myers, Naples, Tampa, Palatka would be good  
lively points if you could get the hotel trade. We  
would not, however, advise Florida as a place for  
the lively business unless you have special advan-  
tages. Write to the Editor of the Sub Tropic, Pa-  
latka, and ask him what he thinks of it. In any  
event you would have to investigate the field per-  
sonally.

F. D. C. Medina, Ohio.—Mt. Vernon, N. Y. is a  
very pleasant suburban town about half an hour  
from New York City, and is a desirable place of

residence, though rents are high, a very ordinary  
house bringing from \$25 to \$50 a month.

Miss K. I. J., Madison, Wis.—A boarding house  
in Seattle would probably pay if you were skillful  
in keeping it, and had good business sense. Prices  
are not high there, six to ten dollars a week, for one  
person in a room, according to house and style, and  
higher than in some instances. Provisions are  
higher than in western markets, but not very  
much. Help is the largest item of expense, cooks  
being worth from \$30 to \$50 a month, and house  
girls \$20. Rent is also high in good neighborhoods.  
Fuel is the least expense, as the winters are never  
cold, and little fire goes, a long way, though in  
some years some fire is necessary every month in  
the year for a day or two at a time.

M. I. K., Doyleston, Pa.—Real estate almost any-  
where along the Maine coast is high in price, as  
compared with rough land elsewhere. The entire  
section has become very popular as a resort for  
summer people from the cities east of the Missis-  
sippi, and they are people with money who are  
willing to pay for what they want. There are many  
desirable places, however, where you could get  
very good value for your \$5,000. Pretty much the  
same condition exists along the south shore of  
Connecticut, where prices are even higher in fa-  
vored localities. You get more mosquitoes though  
for your money in Connecticut than you do in  
Maine.

## \$10 DRESSES ANY MAN

Complete from HEAD  
to TOE in latest Style  
FREE SAMPLES  
and Measurement Blank.

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THE WEARER OUR CUSTOM  
TAILORING we will make the first  
ten thousand suits absolutely free  
measures sent us for only \$10 and  
give the following complete out-  
fit FREE. Act  
daily \$23 value for only  
\$10 and nothing to pay  
till after you receive the  
suit and free outfit and  
find it just as represented.  
Send us your name and  
post office address, and we  
will send you FREE SAM-  
PLES OF CLOTH, 5-foot tape  
line and measurement blank  
for size of Suit, Hat,  
Shirt and Shoes.

A GENUINE CHEVIOT  
Suits made to measure in the  
latest English Sack style, well made  
and durably trimmed, such a suit  
as some tailors charge.....\$20.00  
A Fulling black, Derby or Fedora Hat.....2.50  
A pair of stylish Lace Shoes, the new queen last.....2.50  
A Percale Shirt, with Collar and Cuffs attached.....1.25  
A Neat Silk Four-in-hand Necktie or Bow......50  
A pair of fancy Web Elastic Suspenders......50  
A Japanese Silk Handkerchief......50  
A pair of fancy Lisle Thread Socks......25  
Thousands of American citizens pay daily for this.....\$25.00

DON'T DELAY—After having filled 10,000 orders our  
prices for these suits will be \$20 and NO FREE ARTICLES.  
GENTS' COMPLETE OUTFITTING CO.,  
1111 Adams Street, Chicago, Ill.  
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Please mention COMFORT when you write.

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Send your name and address at once, and on receipt  
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sell it in an hour among your  
friends and neighbors, and  
send the proceeds (\$1.00) to us,  
upon receipt of which we will  
forward the ring you select,  
charges paid. Could anything  
be easier?  
You don't  
invest a cent and have no  
trouble in selling the gum. We  
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quantities. List sent with gum.  
Send TODAY—don't wait un-  
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in appearance, magnificent full engraved  
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which is guaranteed for 25 YEARS.  
Send this to us and we will send the  
WATCH & GOLD CHAIN & SILK  
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charges to outside, as represented  
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real sparkling IN. DIAMOND. Hundred dollar  
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This watch sent your choice of 17 different de-  
signs with privilege to examine. I found de-  
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our famous "Fault-  
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every improvement  
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We guarantee our machines 20 years, ship on easy  
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# NOTICE TO AGENTS

# A Profitable Business

## FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE

## WILLING TO WORK.

## \$3.00 A DAY SURE.

### DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business. We admit that \$3 to \$5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from \$20 to \$50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from \$20 to \$50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that \$3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging \$4 and \$5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from \$7 to \$10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, \$3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than \$3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make \$3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear \$3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from \$5 to \$7, and even \$10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

### BRAZIL SILVER.

#### Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off; they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

#### All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from \$3 to \$5 a day at this business.

#### Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

#### The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from \$3 to \$5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

#### The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, \$2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, \$1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, \$1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	\$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to \$2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only \$1.00, which is \$1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

#### Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

#### VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in every way, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even one dollar and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what

we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the one dollar cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent one dollar and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

#### (CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

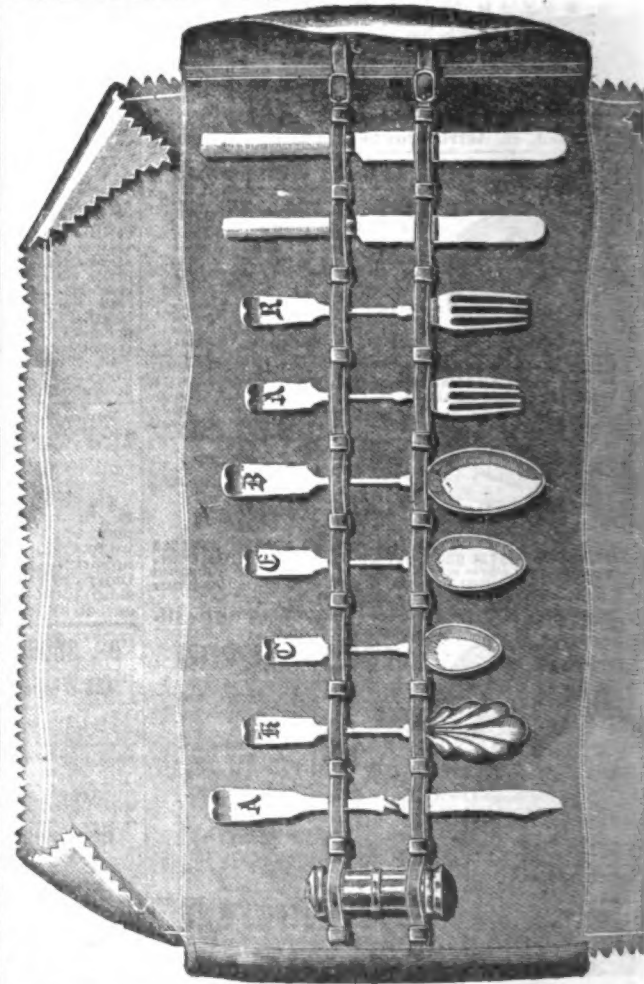
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the one dollar required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the one dollar. If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... State.....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage. Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,  
Box 3000, DETROIT, MICH.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: In answer to all inquiries I have received concerning the standing of the Royal Manufacturing Company of Detroit, Mich., I have invariably replied that the Company is in every way worthy of the confidence of all. In regard to its financial standing and the trustworthiness of the gentlemen connected with it the reading public may rely upon them implicitly.  
HON. HAZEN S. PINGREE, Michigan's Famous Governor.